

Debbie Miller

From: Tara Lynn <taralrobertson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 12:50 PM
To: Dianne Scheib-Snider; Debbie Miller; Paul Gambka; Glen Noble; Patricia Walls

Rose Township Board Members:

I write to you today to show my support of The Devoted Barn ("Barn") -- and in particular the dog program which has been the subject of an ongoing lawsuit with the Township. This letter is my personal testimony as to what the dog program means to me.

I could write dozens of pages about what the Barn, Melissa, the dog program, the animals I never would have thought I would have a bond with (Violet, a donkey; Lucy and Ethel, geese; Holly, a calf; Shemmy, a foal), and the people mean to me. But with all the other vitriol lately, I think it is important to focus on what this lawsuit is actually about -- the dogs.

In the summer of 2020, after having casually followed the Barn online for years, I realized it had moved the previous year to Rose Twp. -- close enough to me to be able to go. (I am a resident of Auburn Hills and have lived in the surrounding area my entire life having grown up in Commerce Twp.). We had been on a statewide lockdown. I was forced to return to the workplace unnecessarily in a time when most people weren't working in person unless it was absolutely necessary. I have a son who was forced home out of school one March day, never to step foot in his middle school again. My husband -- who loves his profession -- was forced to stop working for 12 weeks and also lost his father and stepmother to COVID. My family's mental health was not in a good place.

The Barn came into my life at a time when it was most needed. It gave me an outlet. It gave me something that I could do with my son -- out of the house, interacting with animals and humans. I threw myself into volunteering with the dogs, typically making at least three trips to the Barn a week.

Almost two years later, this is still the case. My dedication to the animals -- particularly the dogs that I personally volunteer with -- is an integral part of my daily life. I think of them as "my" dogs, as many of the volunteers do.

I have cried happy and sad tears many times in the dog rooms. I watch dogs that have come from the most horrific circumstances -- whether it was a hard life on the streets, being born feral and not knowing humans, being abused by those that should have been protecting and caring for them, or living a life being beaten to tenderize their flesh prior to becoming a meal -- remarkably learn to trust humans, after human after human failed them.

My heart has exploded in happiness when a dog who doesn't allow human touch took chicken from my hand (Daddy). I have happily cried in freezing temperatures as a dog has let me scratch her side for the first time (Kit Kat). I have stood still for several minutes letting a dog whose curiosity gets the better of his fear at times sniff at my leg (Ryker). Every week I look forward to the few minutes I get to spend hand feeding a dog and then giving her all the hugs and pets she deserves (Louise). I watched an untouchable meat-trade survivor have a grand mal seizure and get rushed to the ER (Prince). I sit with a dog on my lap and give her love and confidence when she doesn't want to come out of her kennel (Nyla). I watch a dog, who was once so shut down no one thought she ever had a chance, now play with several other dogs in a playgroup (Charity). I smile every time I see a dog born with a spinal deformity run around the dog room living his happiest life (Copper). I happily spend an hour with a dog who suffered such horrific abuse, she now gets to live in her very own apartment equipped with Netflix, be handfed in a special chair, and take stroller walks around the property when the weather permits (Strawberry). The excited greeting I get from a dog when I open her kennel door makes me feel like I am someone important (Zara). An old and arthritic dog who can be standoffish with a lot of people comes out of his kennel as fast as he

can for pets when he sees me (Jake). I see updates on two meat-trade survivors now living their best adopted life, learning to be normal dogs (Dora and Dazzle).

This is only a small sample. I have a story for each and every dog that I have worked with at the Barn. Thank you for taking the time to read my own story. Please consider all of the good that comes from the Barn and the dog program.

Sincerely,

Tara Robertson-Smith

Debbie Miller

From: Pennie Gammage <pmgammage@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 12:37 PM
To: Debbie Miller
Subject: In Support of The Devoted Barn Sanctuary Dog/Cat Program

Dear Rose Township Board Member,

I am writing this letter to you in support of The Devoted Barn Sanctuary, its animals, and its wonderful volunteers. I hope you will take a moment to read how much this Sanctuary means to us.

My husband and I have been active supporters of the Sanctuary for more than four years. We began our involvement because our daughter, Angela Gammage, began to volunteer there. Thus, we became familiar with the good work this organization provides the animals. We are primarily focused on the dogs and cats who need help. Without the Sanctuary, many of these animals would have been euthanized or left to wander the communities in which they were found. Because of the Sanctuary and its volunteers, the animals are safe, housed in a comfortable environment, regularly well fed, and loved. It is easy to see that they appreciate this care when visiting.

Early on, we donated blankets and towels. We then saw the need and began to be regular financial donors. Our donations contribute to paying veterinary bills for treatment, surgeries, and other care needed by the animals. Our daughter and her fellow volunteers hold full-time employment and still give so much of their "free" time to the animals. Angela devotes at least three nights a week to the dog and cat care. This includes cleaning kennels, feeding, medicating when necessary, and supervising regular play time for them. In addition, Angela donates extra time to transporting the dogs to the vet. She is on call for medical emergencies, transport to adoption gatherings and fundraising events, and additional time at the Sanctuary as needed.

We are the grateful adopters of a cat from the Sanctuary. Her name is Gracie Jean, and she is a very welcome addition to our rescue animal adoptees. Gracie was one of four kittens who were found after their mother was hit by a car and died. She and her three siblings were raised at the Sanctuary, socialized, and adopted to loving families. We have come to know many of the other animals as well: Lefty, Charlie, Kylie, Phantom, and Elliott to name a few. Brownie is a hospice dog whom my daughter is fostering in her home in order to provide her comfort and special care in her final days.

The education provided by the Sanctuary volunteers has also inspired us in Lansing to become involved with local rescue organizations. As a result, we care for a community of cats in our neighborhood, several of whom have been trapped, neutered, and vaccinated by Saved by Zade, a valuable rescue in mid-Michigan. Some of the feral cats are returned to the community where they are fed and provided housing. Some are happily adopted (specifically, two have joined our family).

In conclusion, let me say again how valuable The Devoted Barn Sanctuary is to the animals, the volunteers, your community and its reputation. I would be heart-broken if these dogs and cats were taken from their home. Please work with the Sanctuary to resolve issues so the animals will continue to get the love and support they deserve.

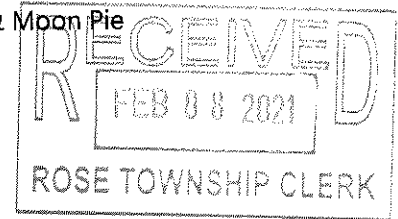
I thank you for your kind attention to my letter.

Blessings to you,

Pennie and Gary Gammage
1118 W. Thomas L. Parkway
Lansing, Michigan 48917

Debbie Miller

From: Nancy De Long <njld14@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 12:24 PM
To: Dianne Scheib-Snider; Debbie Miller; Paul Gambka; Glen Noble; Patricia Walls
Cc: hollycote065@gmail.com; Melissa Borden
Subject: The Devoted Barn Support Letter obo Holly Cote & Moon Pie



To the esteemed board members of Rose Township:

Woof!

My name is Moon. My barn family, my bio momma, and my forever momma call me "Moon Pie! I want to share my story with you.

Many "moons" ago, I lived on the streets of Detroit. I foraged for food in places I probably shouldn't have, but I didn't know any better. I was hungry. When it rained or snowed, I did my best to find a bush to hunker down in. When it was hot outside, finding water was a chore. The nice thing about rain is that it provided some puddles to drink from but they soon dried up.

My momma says I was about 5 when a "rescue" came and saved me. She took me to her garage where there were about 60 other dogs like me, confused and afraid. It made me miss the outdoors because I couldn't do my business outside of my crate. Some of the other dogs were sick and I couldn't understand why no one was helping them. This agony lasted just over 2 years.

One day, a couple of trucks rolled in the driveway. We were all placed in these trucks and driven away from that garage. My driver's name was Melissa Borden. She looked into my eyes and said, "you are coming with me, Moon Pie. Your suffering is over." I felt her kind spirit, but trusting her did not come quickly. After all, the lady that hoarded me and the other dogs broke our trust in unspeakable ways.

I became a member of this family at The Devoted Barn. I didn't know what that meant. It took a long time to get used to regular meals and fresh water. People coming through the door and saying hello to me, and offering me treats. It scared the daylight out of me. I was so afraid they were going to touch me! They didn't touch me, though and the treats kept coming! Miss Melissa told me, "In your timing, Moon Pie, you will one day enjoy being touched. We will not ever force that on you. Let us know when you are ready."

Miss Melissa invited her friend, Holly, to the sanctuary to help with some special needs puppies. They had funny lips and noses. When Miss Holly came through the door, I couldn't contain myself. To this day, I don't understand what came over me! I trotted up to her, rubbed my nose on her hand, and ran back to my bed! Crazy, I know!! Every time Miss Holly came to visit, it would happen again. I had no control over myself!

Miss Melissa and Miss Holly had a talk in October of 2020. They both decided that I'd be super company for Miss Holly and her pack. On that day, Miss Melissa became my bio momma and Miss Holly, my forever momma.

Life has changed for me since my days on the streets, then stuck in that garage. I have two brothers and a sister. My Sis is Ms. Detroit Lucy (as my momma calls her!) she, too, was a feral stray as a puppy. Ms. Melissa rescued her, too.

Over the last 14 months, Ms. Lucy has been my life coach. She shows me where to do my business in the yard, where the water and food bowls are. She taught me tug o'war!! We chase each other and play games. When we've played so hard and decide we need a nap, we run inside and plop on the couch! Momma even gives us our own blankets!!

I heard that some scary people are saying that Devoted Barn animals aren't properly cared for. This makes me sad because it isn't true. I've had my vaccines, monthly heartworm, and flea/tick medicines. I also got my teeth cleaned! Remember all that stuff I ate on the streets? It did a number on my teeth and they feel so much better now!

My life has changed drastically since Miss Melissa rescued me. When she trusted Miss Holly to be my forever momma, she knew what she was doing. My forever momma says I am the goofiest, sweetest boy ever and that I will never again be alone, fending for myself.

Since my forever momma took me home with her, I have since moved to North Carolina with my forever dad and my siblings, Lucy, Tango, and Rico. We all have different stories, but we are all rescued from lives that may have ended because people didn't care about us.

My name is Moon Pie. This is my story. Without Miss Melissa and The Devoted Barn, I would not be where I am today.








Thank you for reading Moon Pie's personal story. My name is Holly and I am the proud forever momma of Moon Pie. I would not have this happy boy if not for Melissa Borden and Devoted Barn. The collaboration between Animal Control and Melissa saved Moon Pie's life. It is a blessing for these animals that animal control has The Devoted Barn to rely on when animals are seized from horrific conditions. This partnership is awesome for these precious animals and the community in which they reside. Continued harassment of Melissa and The Debited Barn would place this partnership in jeopardy, as well as the animals each of them strive to provide a decent life for. As these two have partnered together over the years, it sets an impressive example for all of us, to put these animals above complaints by neighbors that no longer live next to our beloved sanctuary.

Respectfully submitted,
Holly Cote
Holly Ridge, NC

Debbie Miller

From: Linda Dagenhardt <lindadag15@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 10:22 AM
To: Dianne Scheib-Snider; Patricia Walls; Paul Gambka; Glen Noble; Debbie Miller
Subject: Devoted Barn
Attachments: in suport of the DEvoted Barn.docx



7 February 2022

Rose Township Board
980 Mason St.
Holly, MI 48442

Board Members & Residents,

This lawsuit is not about dogs or the care animals are receiving at The Devoted Barn.

This lawsuit is about control, to prove once and for all that Rose Township government can do as it pleases or try to.

When The Devoted Barn moved into Rose Township, there were no written ordinance on the books that would regulate this non-profit. Not the type of animals, not the number of dogs, not the location or any requirements pertaining to a Rescue Facility.

One person living very close to the barns finally complained about dogs barking and then, involved the neighbor across the street. They had a right to complain, the Township had a right to address the complaint with the Devoted Barn. The Devoted Barn had a right to be given time to address the problem. (Which they have done, and you never hear the dogs bark now)

The Township Supervisor, although she has the right to appoint residents to various boards, should not have removed a planning commission board member and appointed the person who made the original complaint about the barking to the Planning Commission, because his occupation was/is a City Planner for Flint.

The Planning Commission should not have tried to write new ordinances to cover this situation that was grandfathered in under the original ordinances.

The Township should have worked with the Devoted Barn by offering suggestions and concerns rather than writing ordinances and filing lawsuits. It has now cost the township over \$ 41,000. in just attorney's fees, not counting the extra money paid to Dave Plews for attending court, mileage, etc., and it ain't over yet.

It has also cost the Devoted Barn time and money to protect the non-profit, the animals and the rescue facility.

Who are the actual complainants or those with an ax to grind against TDB?

Rose Township government, People from Monroe Co., who lost a lawsuit to Melissa, a couple people who did stable their horses on the Devoted Barn site, and a person who lost a Federal Lawsuit to Melissa, non- residents of Rose Township, are a few.

The Township Attorney has never learned that he should not be filling lawsuits against a resident because another resident complained. He does not work for single residents in the township, I think it is illegal for a Twp. Attorney to do so, or least unethical. He has done it before.

There is overwhelming support for The Devoted Barn, from most Township Residents and those who volunteer their time at the Barn and donate financial support. It has been clear that this type of facility is welcomed by Rose Township Residents.

The Supervisor and Residents have said many times, "Keep Rose Township a Rural Community", The Devoted Barn, a Rescue Facility is a way to do that with excellent PR.

The Township should "Back Off" and quit trying to work around the rules or keep going to court until you find a Judge you could sway to take your side on an issue.

Court of Appeals is coming soon.

Linda Dagenhardt
9125 Clinton St.
Holly, MI 48442

Debbie Miller

From: Rebecca Bentley <rebeccabentley@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 8:32 AM
To: Dianne Scheib-Snider; Debbie Miller; Paul Gambka; Glen Noble; Patricia Walls
Subject: Devoted Barn Dog Program

Good morning Rose Township board members,

I am writing this morning in regards to the dog program at the Devoted Barn, where I have been a volunteer since September, 2021.

The dog program at the Devoted Barn did not bring in any new dogs in 2021 who reside at the barn property in Rose Township. In fact, 14 dogs moved out of the program into loving foster or forever homes in 2021, and an additional 12 dogs in the neonate/special needs program are now in foster or forever homes. These successes are the result of a whole lot of hard work by the Devoted Barn volunteers and Melissa Borden, as well as the unwavering support and commitment from the Devoted Barn donors and veterinary partners.

Each dog has a team of volunteers that take care of their food, shelter and veterinary needs. As a dog lover and owner myself, I have been amazed at the work I have seen in the dog program. Dogs that have not known human touch or kindness have become comfortable enough to enjoy peanut butter treats out of volunteer hands. Dogs who have never been on a leash are being leash trained with enticing salmon skin treats. Dogs who have sustained themselves on the streets by eating unsuitable food, waste and scraps, are fed fresh fish, chicken and beef lovingly cooked by volunteers, that supplement their daily kibble nourishment. To watch these dogs run zoomies as they stop for pets and treats from volunteers sitting on the ground with them is incredible. Watching these same dogs snuggle down on raised beds, burrowing into comforters and blankets shows me they are loved, comfortable and happy.

One of the things that has struck me most in my time at the barn is watching the individual skill sets of the volunteers benefit the barn infrastructure and animal care. For example, volunteers familiar with plumbing have run fresh water directly to the dog rooms for drinking and cleaning. Volunteers with grant writing and fundraising knowledge, have secured grants for special projects, and found opportunities for volunteers to raise money together. As a civil engineer with a specialty in soils and construction materials, I have had planning discussions with Melissa on infrastructure projects, and have offered my professional expertise to help in the construction of the new dog building offered to the Rose Twp. Board.

At the helm of this program and the Devoted Barn is Melissa Borden. I work directly with Melissa every other weekend at the barn, and random days in between when I get to fill in on other teams. On the busiest of days, under blazing sun and freezing snow and wind, I have personally witnessed Melissa's laser focus on the care and comfort of the animals at the Devoted Barn, commitment to community engagement, training volunteers (me included) and uplifting her volunteer partners that make this incredible place work.

I hope the Rose Township Board shares in the commitment of the volunteers and leaders at the Devoted Barn to provide love, care and commitment to the animals we care for, as well as the commitment to educating and engaging the community through the work the Devoted Barn

does. This work is essential, and the dog program is an uplifting program to the community of Rose Township.

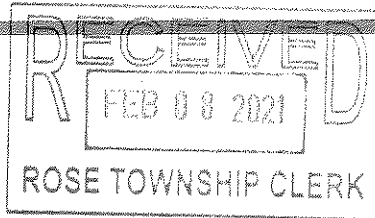
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rebecca Bentley
rebeccabentley@att.net
734-771-0992

Debbie Miller

From: Tom Mullen <tomsteve1987@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 7:30 AM
To: Dianne Scheib-Snider; Debbie Miller; Paul Gambka; Glen Noble; Patricia Walls
Subject: The Devoted Barn
Attachments: Letter.docx

Good morning. I hope today finds you all well. I am attaching a letter from myself in regards to The Devoted Barn. Thank you for your time and i hope you have a blessed day



February 8 2022

To Whom It May Concern;

My name is Tom Mullen. I have been a volunteer at The Devoted Barn since February 2022 and am writing this letter in regards to the dog program at The Devoted Barn and what it means to me.

Although i had volunteered at another rescue, I had never worked with dogs of this nature- Dogs that had been abused, neglected, and in the case of the Thailand dog meat trade Survivors- torture. Dogs that truly needed help trusting humans and learning how to be dogs.

I have been able to help an old fart dog(Chester) live out the last months of his life in my home. I have been able to take a once feral dog (Louise) out for the day, and sometimes a few days. I have been able to take a dog (Nyla) out in the same matter. Bobby, another once feral dog, is another i have been able to take out and help.

To see the reaction of these dogs; to see them learn that not all humans are bad and the world isnt such a bad place..... To see these dogs enjoying a day in my yard just laying in the sun, a walk along the shore of the st clair river, a walk in a park in Petoskey, a ride in the car watching the sites go by.... To see dogs that were once afraid of humans(Bobby and Louise), had been neglected(Nyla), or just given up on by their previous owner because they were old(Chester) and many other experiences for them- the feeling cant be described. It has to be experience.

In the dog room, at one time Selena was a desert dog in Saudi Arabia . Beaten severely on a regular basis, she was NOT a fan of men, which is understandable. To see this dog go from not having any faith in me(she had her volunteers she loved. I wasnt one of them- yet) to trusting me so much she would sit on my lap and let me love all over her... i cant describe it. It has to be experienced.

The process to rehabilitate these dogs can take quite a bit of time but i have been blessed to see Ammo, Fred, King, Dora, Micah, Caden, Roman, Sloan, and a few other pups go to their forever home. It is a blessing to see it and yet, something i cant describe; it has to be experience.

I cant express what a joy and blessing it is to help these dogs. I cant express how amazing it is to watch the other volunteers with these dogs. The happiness, joy, peace, and love they bring to so many is indescribable. It is something that cant be described; it has to be experienced.

My hope is that somehow you will all take the time to come volunteer for a while. You dont have to do any of the work- just be with the dogs for a few hours. Do it more than once. It shouldnt take long before you see and understand the full extent the dog program at The Devoted Barn has had, and will continue to have, on not only the dogs but on the humans, too.

Thank you for you time

Tom Mullen

1040 Glengary

Commerce Twp, Mi 48390

Debbie Miller

From: Angela Gammage <asgammage@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 1:12 AM
To: Dianne Scheib-Snider; Debbie Miller; Paul Gambka; Glen Noble; Patricia Walls
Cc: Melissa Borden
Subject: In Support Of The Devoted Barn Sanctuary Dog Program
Attachments: Alana and the Sheps.jpg; Brown and Okie Groups.jpg; Daddys Group and Singles.jpg; Kylie and the Twinks.jpg; Feral Group.jpg; Brownie Collage.jpg

Rose Township Board of Directors,

Over five years ago I found this amazing animal rescue. One where I knew I could make a difference for the animals. Little did I know at the time how much of a positive difference this rescue would make in my life. While I love my career as a Senior Vice President at PNC Bank, these rescue animals became my true passion. They became my family. The dogs became My Dogs.

I have been volunteering for The Devoted Barn Sanctuary for over four years now. We have rescued dogs from the former meat trade in Thailand, dogs from neglect, abuse and hoarding cases, feral animals at risk of euthanization at shelters, incontinent dogs, and fearful dogs in need of a safe haven.

When I started volunteering at The Devoted Barn, I knew little of the horror that humans were capable of in terms of animal neglect and abuse. I had no idea how to help to rehabilitate a fearful or feral animal. I quickly learned how much different this rescue is from most others. I learned that not only do we have to approach these delicate animals differently, we have to do so on their timeline, on their terms. This often means we could be taking care of these animals for the rest of their lives, or if we are fortunate, they may learn to trust us more quickly and have the ability to be adopted into a home.

Before I started working with our dogs, I had no idea what an incredible experience it would be or the joy that would come from earning the trust of a once petrified dog. The feeling is almost indescribable. It makes you want to jump for joy given how rewarding it is. However, with our dogs, we just smile and continue to show them they are safe with us (while internally jumping for joy).

One year ago, I decided to take our oldest feral dog home with me to live out her remaining months in a home. She was my second senior rescue dog from The Devoted Barn. I knew it may not work out with Brownie as she did not allow touch and had only known how to be a street dog prior to coming to The Devoted Barn. However, the way she looked at me told me she loved me and trusted me. I knew I had earned her trust over the years I had been caring for her. Brownie is now 17 years old and living comfortably in my home with my rescue cats. She will likely never want to be a dog that goes for walks at the dog park, but she is My Dog and we love one another unconditionally. Brownie is one of many success stories from our Fearful and Feral Dog Program at The Devoted Barn.

I became one of the two current dog program coordinators two and a half years ago. With this came additional, self-imposed responsibility to ensure all aspects of the program were continuously improved upon. We have accomplished this and so much more. We have a regular vetting program set up with onsite mobile veterinary care on a monthly basis. In addition, we have solid relationships with six reputable, local veterinary hospitals. We have a full team of extraordinarily dedicated volunteers that work together daily to ensure that all of our dogs are properly cared for, offered rehabilitation, and shown love and affection during several shifts every day. We have a foster/adoption team that works specifically with our adult dogs to assist us in finding potential foster homes as the next step in our rehabilitation process for our fearful dogs. These are just a few of our incredible accomplishments over the last two and a half years. We have plans for so much more, assuming we are able to continue our program.

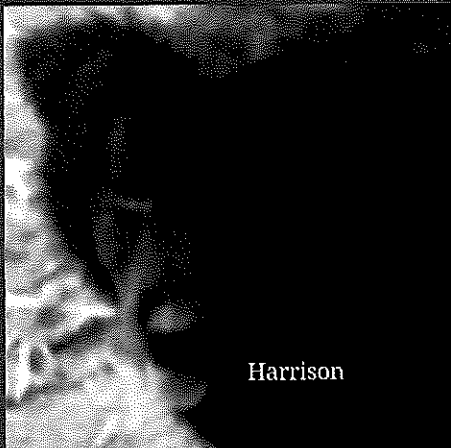
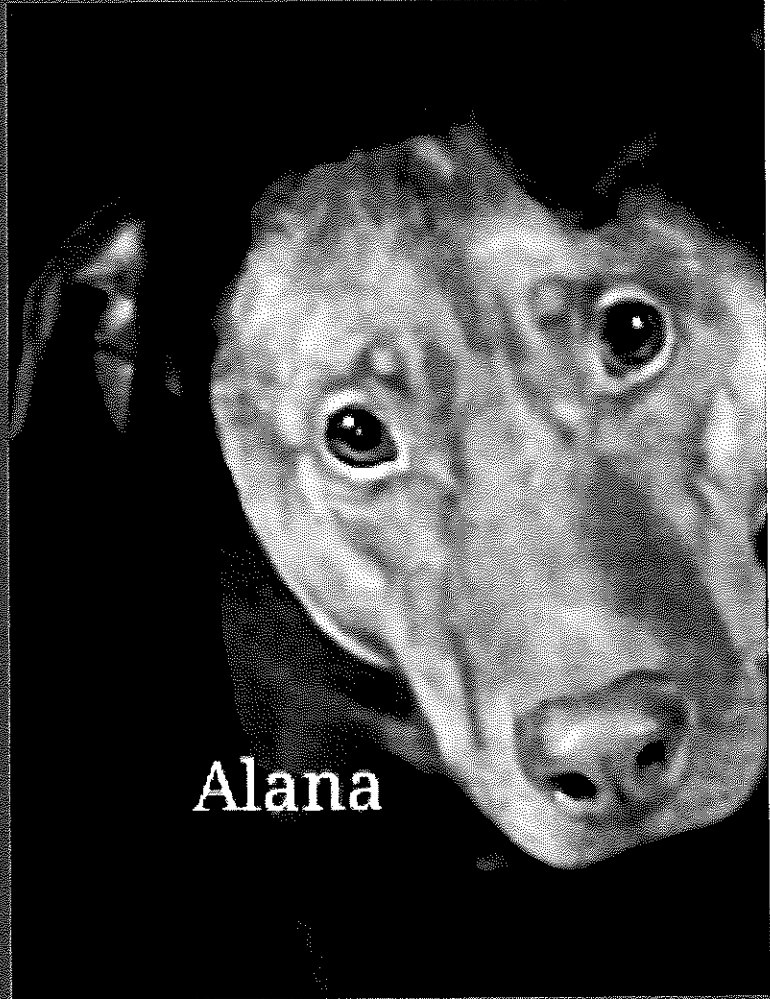
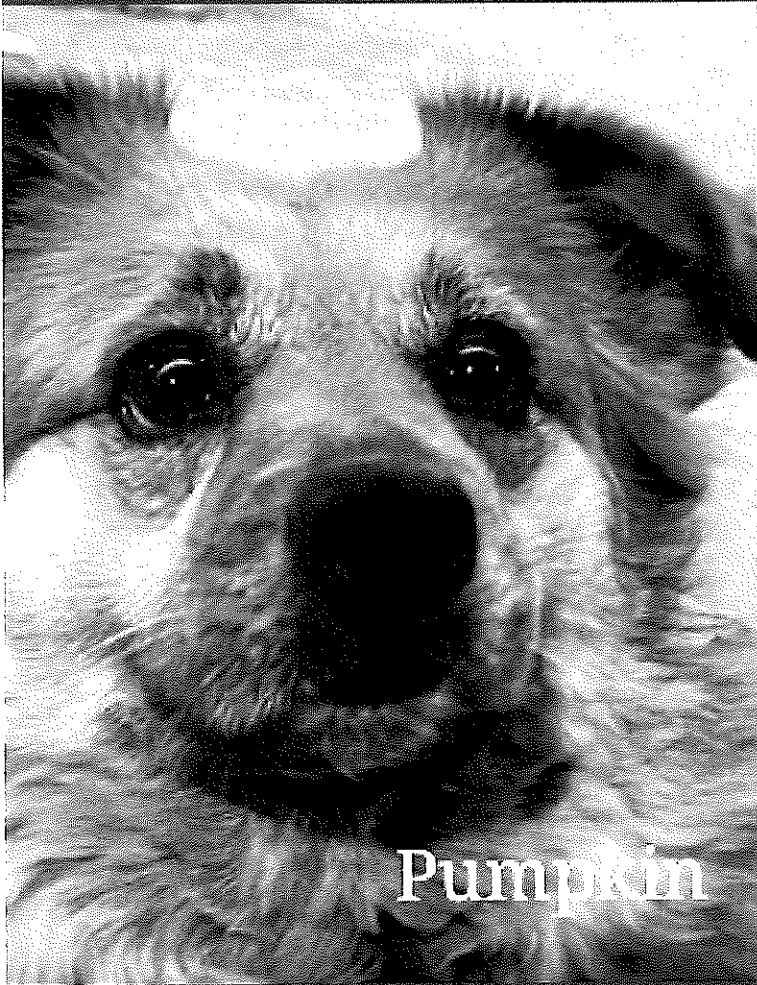
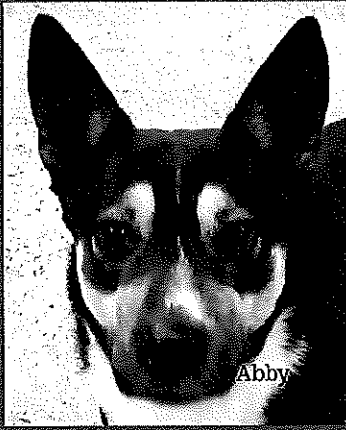
Our volunteers work endless hours to take great care of our animals at The Devoted Barn Sanctuary. It's important for you to see that we all consider these animals our responsibility. This is a family. A family of loving volunteers and a family of loving animals. We all love them as if they were truly our own. In fact, most of the volunteers that work in our dog program often refer to our dogs as "My Dogs". On average, I personally dedicate over 40 hours per week to the care of My Dogs. Many of our volunteers within the program can say the same.

We want to save and protect the home our dogs, My Dogs, have grown to love and depend upon. They depend on us for food, shelter, rehabilitation, and love. Every one of these dogs has their own story. Each one of them has a name. They all have hearts full of love to give. All of them deserve a chance to safely live out their lives in peace, happiness, and filled with the love we readily offer them. Please consider the positive impact you will have on the future of our dogs, our volunteers, and this community by allowing us to remain at The Devoted Barn Sanctuary and continue our compassionate work.

If you have any questions about our program or our plans for the future, please do not hesitate to contact us. I would love to introduce each and every one of you to My Dogs. Please let me know if you would like to know more about them or would like to meet me at The Devoted Barn Sanctuary for a tour. You are all welcome anytime. In the interim, please check out the attached pictures of each of My Dogs currently under our care and of My Dog Brownie.

Sincerely,

Angela Gammage
Fearful and Feral Dog Program Coordinator
The Devoted Barn
asgammage@yahoo.com
248.388.0134

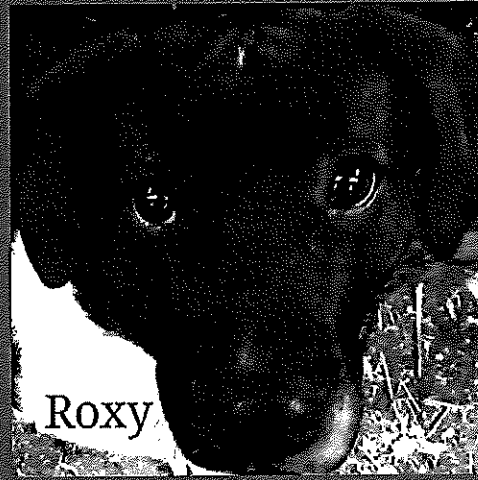




Louise



Sara



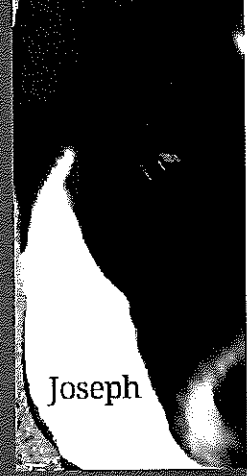
Roxy



Monty



KitKat

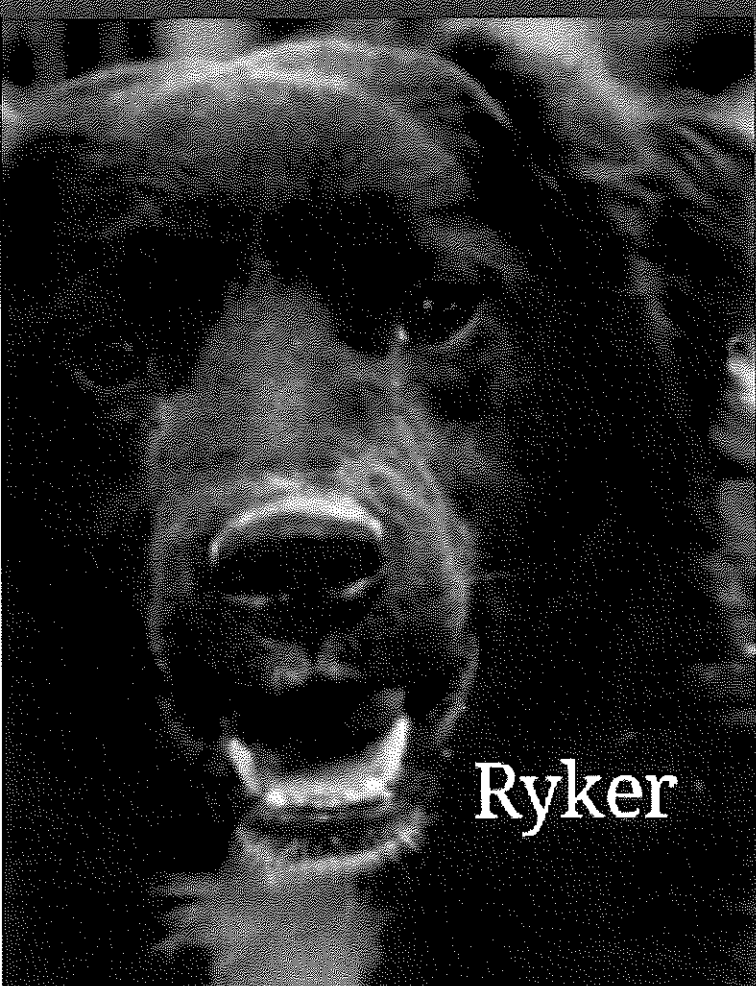


Joseph

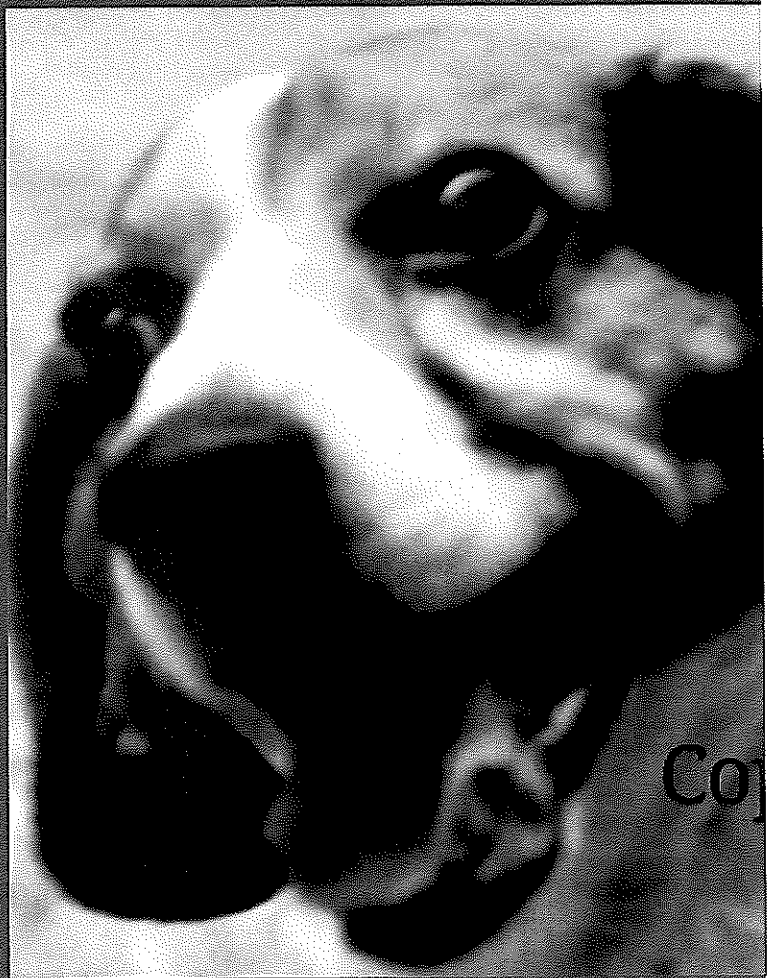


Scarlett

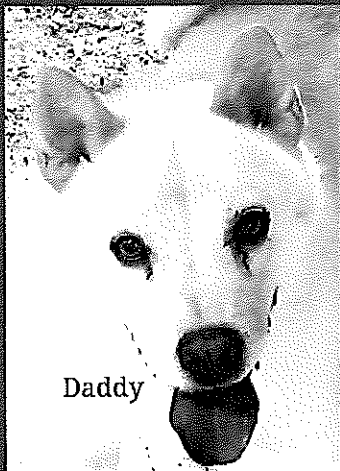




Ryker



Co



Daddy



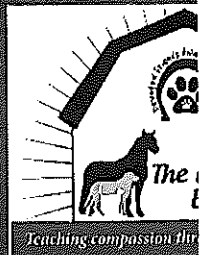
Marley



strawberry



Nyla



Teaching compassion thru



Kylie



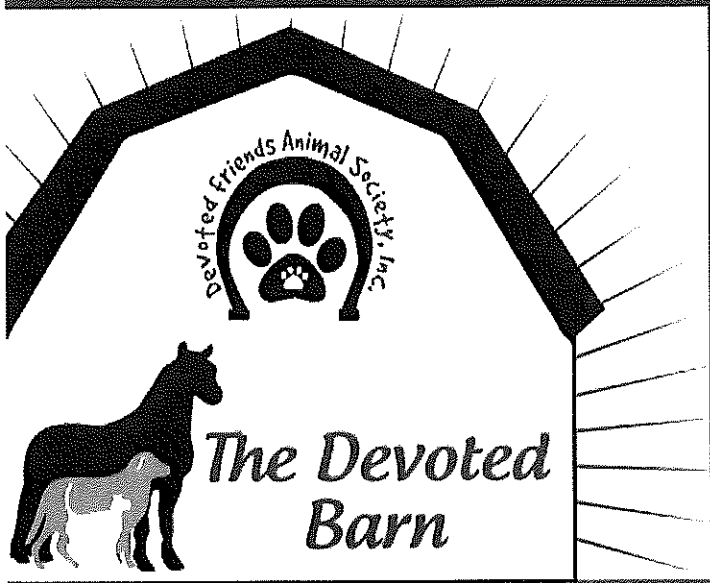
Foxy



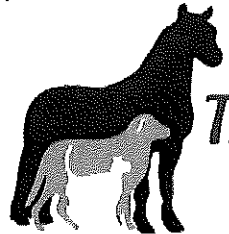
Marvin



Twinkle



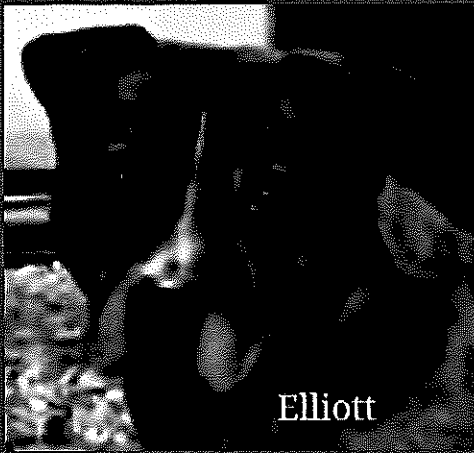
Devoted Friends Animal Society, Inc.



The Devoted Barn

g compassion through positive action

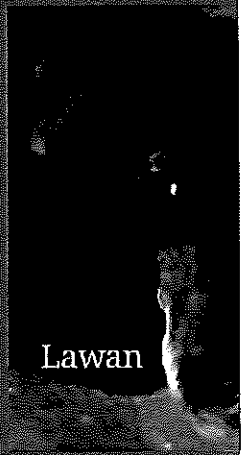
Animal Society
The Devoted
Barn
through positive action



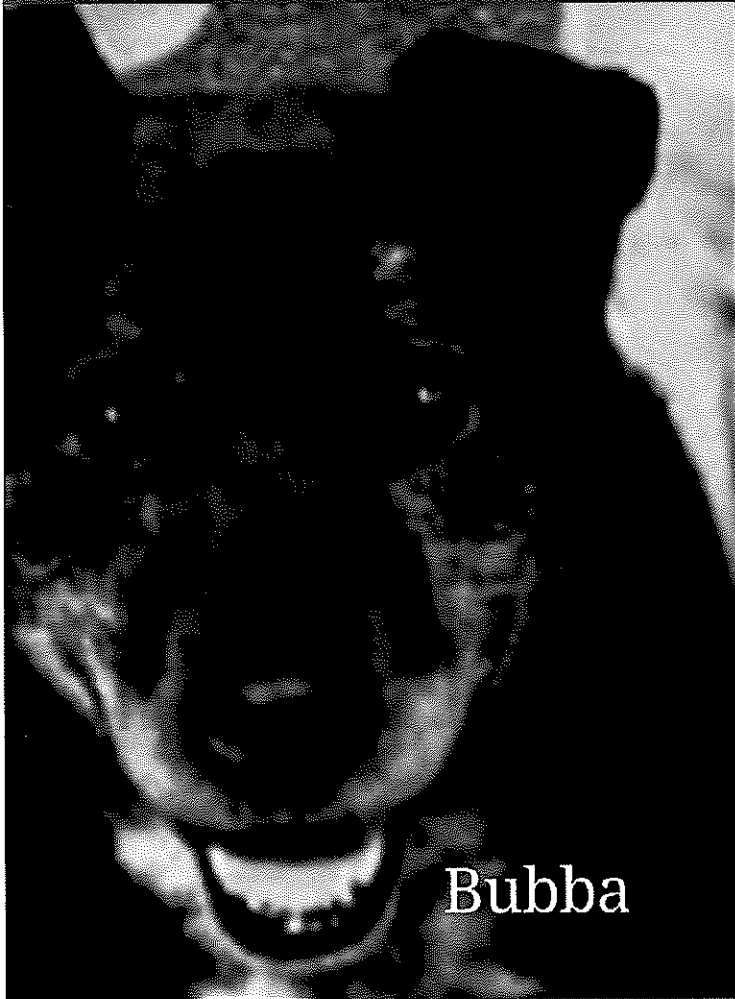
Elliott



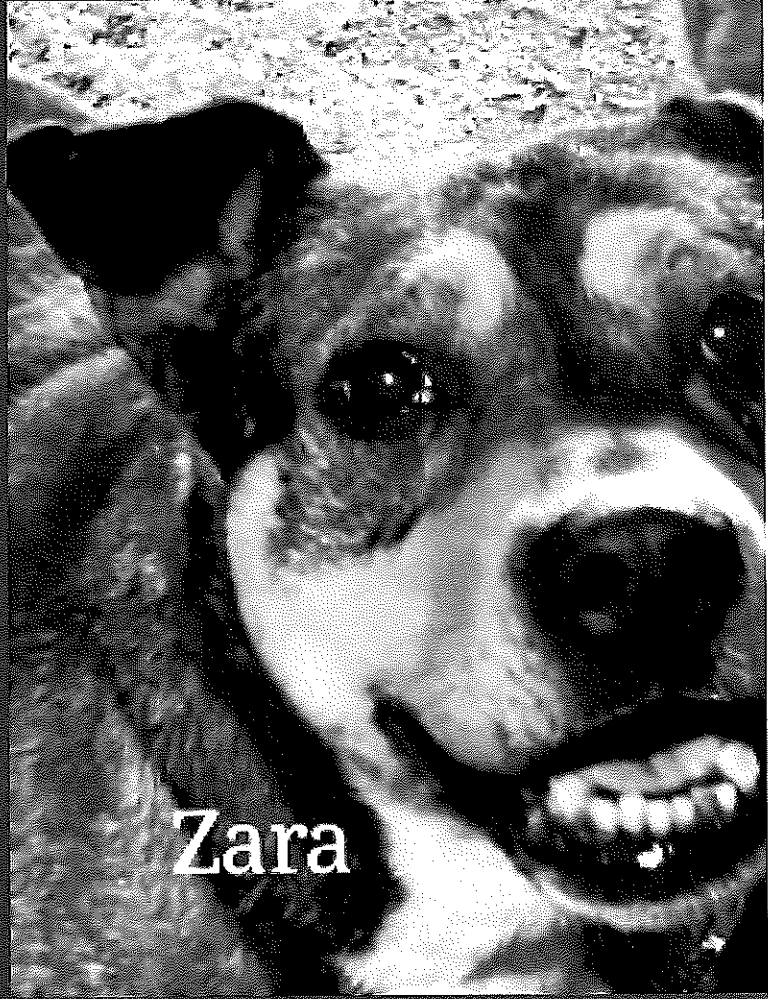
Rose



Lawan



Bubba



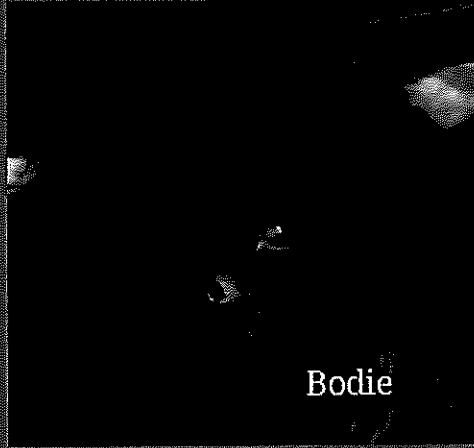
Zara



Jake



Bobby



Bodie



Morgan




Brownie



Debbie Miller

From: HEATHER VANDAM <fab4fam@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 10:52 PM
To: Dianne Scheib-Snider; Debbie Miller; Paul Gambka; Glen Noble; Patricia Walls
Subject: The Devoted Barn



dianne@rosetownship.com
clerk@rosetownship.com
treasurer@rosetownship.com
trustee1@rosetownship.com
pwalls@rosetownship.com

Rose Township Board Members,

I am writing you in regards to The Devoted Barn Animal Sanctuary and its life-saving dog program. I have been a volunteer at the barn for over 1 year and have logged over 1,000 hours working in the dog room. Initially, I came to volunteer because I was hearing so much complaining about the state of affairs in the world and thought, I need to do something to make the world better. I scheduled orientation and was immediately drawn to the dogs. During the week I volunteer in the dog room cleaning kennels, giving fresh water, clean linens, straw, toys, and putting down fresh shavings. The dogs come out during this time and are given all of the pets, treats and belly rubs they could want. All of the dogs at the barn come from neglect or abuse cases and are learning to trust humans. These dogs need patience, love, and understanding to overcome the traumatic past they have endured at the hands of humans. I have been very fortunate to see these dogs grow to trust me and all of the other volunteers at the barn, To see a once fearful and withdrawn dog open up to allow pets from humans and take food is a heart-melting sight to behold. I have also been a part of multiple vetting days where the dogs received regular checkups and medical treatments as needed. These dogs are loved by so many dedicated volunteers, many bringing in special treats and toys to share with their furry friends. I could certainly go on and on about my love for this special place and all who volunteer here but I won't. I will simply leave you with this quote from Edgar Allen Poe- "but the time will arrive when you will learn to judge for yourself of what is going on in the world, without trusting to the gossip of others. **Believe nothing you hear and only one half that you see.**"

Heather Van Dam

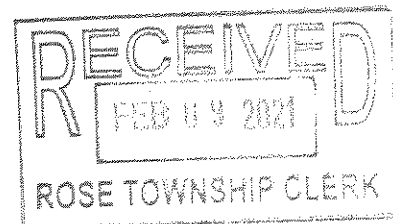
Debbie Miller

From: Leanne Johnson <michic40@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 9:13 PM
To: Debbie Miller; Paul Gambka; Dianne Scheib-Snider; Patricia Walls; Glen Noble
Cc: MelBorden5@gmail.com
Subject: Letter from Shelley Dettloff, Volunteer for The Devoted Barn

Dear Rose Township Board Members:

My name is Shelley Dettloff. I've been a volunteer with the dogs for almost 2 years now. I live an hour away and make the drive happily, in rain and snow. This barn has changed my life. These pups are the reason I wake up early, drive and fight traffic. These pups have shown that they will eventually trust that not all humans are evil. It might take years, but when it happens, your heart will explode. I am currently fostering a Thailand meat trade survivor in my home. It's taken me over a year to gain her trust. Since she's been at my house, she has conquered the stairs, went outside to potty, and her tail is never not wagging. If it wasn't for The Devoted Barn, she wouldn't be with us today. And every day I'm with my pups, they amaze me at something new. Albeit, allowing pets from someone or just acting like a dog, playing with another dog. I can arrive there super tired knowing when I leave, my heart will be full. They are my sanctuary. They just don't know it.

Sincerely,
Shelley Dettloff



Debbie Miller

From: Leanne Johnson <michic40@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 9:54 PM
To: Debbie Miller; Paul Gambka; Patricia Walls; Dianne Scheib-Snider; Glen Noble
Cc: melborden5@gmail.com
Subject: Letter from Peggy Trapp - Volunteer for The Devoted Barn


Dear Rose Township Board Members,

My name is Peggy Trapp. I have been a volunteer at the Devoted Barn for almost a year. This place has blessed me over and over. The love and care for the animals fill my soul. I have met wonderful people with a common goal of loving and caring for the dogs and all the animals. Each volunteer has their own style to offer the animals. Each time I go I feel something amazing happens with one or more dogs that are learning trust. I am so grateful to be a part of this place. I am thankful to Melissa for her love and hard work. We all work hard by her side with this common goal and everyday counts!

Peggy Trapp

Debbie Miller

From: Leanne Johnson <michic40@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 9:54 PM
To: Debbie Miller; Paul Gambka; Patricia Walls; Dianne Scheib-Snider; Glen Noble
Cc: melborden5@gmail.com
Subject: Letter from Peggy Trapp - Volunteer for The Devoted Barn

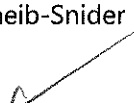


Dear Rose Township Board Members,

My name is Peggy Trapp. I have been a volunteer at the Devoted Barn for almost a year. This place has blessed me over and over. The love and care for the animals fill my soul. I have met wonderful people with a common goal of loving and caring for the dogs and all the animals. Each volunteer has their own style to offer the animals. Each time I go I feel something amazing happens with one or more dogs that are learning trust. I am so grateful to be a part of this place. I am thankful to Melissa for her love and hard work. We all work hard by her side with this common goal and everyday counts!

Peggy Trapp

Debbie Miller

From: Leanne Johnson <michic40@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 11:56 PM
To: Paul Gambka; Debbie Miller; Glen Noble; Patricia Walls; Dianne Scheib-Snider
Cc: MelBorden5@gmail.com
Subject: Letter from Teddi Kollenberg, Volunteer from The Devoted Barn 

To The Council of Rose Township:

My name is Teddi Kollenberg and I have been a volunteer at The Devoted Barn since 2015. I have helped out in all areas caring for our animals, but my primary area is caring for the dogs. The Devoted Barn is a special place that is near and dear to my heart. It usually takes me about an hour to get their from my home and I look forward to that trip every time. The dogs in our care come from some of the worst situations you can imagine. We have assisted Animal Control and police in legal affairs involving dogs. It is totally heartbreaking what some of these dogs have endured. It is so gratifying to help them heal and to overcome their fear and distrust of people. Everything we try to do (and at their comfort pace) is to help build trust and confidence through training, patience and love. We have had many of our dogs get adopted to loving homes. I hope and pray that you will help us continue this work at The Devoted Barn.

Sincerely yours,
Teddi Kollenberg