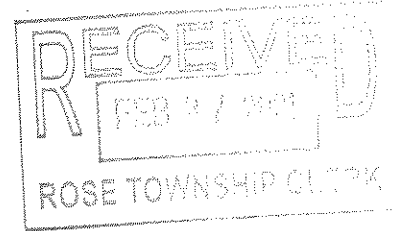


## Debbie Miller

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**From:** Jennifer Musulin <jenny.musulin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 11:10 AM  
**To:** Patricia Walls; Glen Noble; Debbie Miller; Dianne Scheib-Snider; Paul Gambka  
**Subject:** The Devoted Barn



Dear Rose Township Board Members,

While I am not a Rose Township resident (yet) I appreciate the work you put in on behalf of the residents. I know your focus is to make the township the best it can be for the residents you serve. I do spend a lot of time in your township, and I drive an hour and half one way to do so.

I volunteer at The Devoted Barn Sanctuary. I have a unique perspective to offer on the current issues. I have been volunteering with The Barn for 9 years. In that time my role has changed. I now oversee and give tours to individuals and groups, I organize some of the community events and outreach, and I foster.

Since we have moved to the area, I have been lucky enough to meet many amazing Rose Township residents when they have come out for a tour. They are always very positive about us being in the area. Many return with donations, to volunteer, or to visit again. As I am sure you are aware, the property was in very rough shape when The Devoted Barn bought it. One of the first comments I receive is "Wow the property looks so much better, it is no longer an eye sore". In this pandemic it is a struggle to find things for a family to do, and visiting the barn has been a breath of fresh air for many residents. Many nonresidents have also come for tours. When they come, they help stimulate the local economy. Many drive far so they patronize food establishments, gas stations, and several stay in area hotels or at campgrounds overnight in season.

I work with a number of groups. In the past few years we have hosted several Boy and Girl Scout troops, group homes and nursing homes, groups that serve veterans, a school for vet techs, a school for at risk youth, and even teamed up with the Holly Library for read to an animal day. Several of the Boy and Girl Scout troops have returned and earned a variety of badges at The Barn. Again this includes several residents of Rose Township and several people who drove a distance to get to The Barn. Many ask for information on local attractions, lodging, and food establishments.

The Devoted Barn works closely with several animal controls. Often we are stepping up to help with cases of hoarding, neglect, abuse, and catching stray animals when no one else can or does. We also work closely with other rescues, the Department of Agriculture, and several police departments. The Devoted Barn is often visited by The Department of Agriculture and Animal Controls when they come to check on animals that are evidence in current criminal investigations. If you check you will find The Devoted Barn to be in good standing with all of these entities. I know you must take the source into consideration when making decisions on the validity of claims. Thank you for doing your due diligence and seeking the input of professionals in the appropriate fields.

I welcome you to come and volunteer a few times with our volunteers. You will see a team of dedicated people and some very spoiled and loved animals. It would be a great way to see first hand the work done every single day to ensure all animals have their needs met. I tell my son and my students to do good every day, but most importantly not cause harm to others. Through my volunteering with The Devoted Barn I have been able to teach compassion and live out that saying with countless children. The impact The Barn has on youth is magical to experience.

Rose Township is lucky to have this gem in their community. It is a benefit to the residents and animals alike. I trust you will see this as the positive place it is and how it benefits your community.

Please reach out with any further questions,

Jennifer Musulin

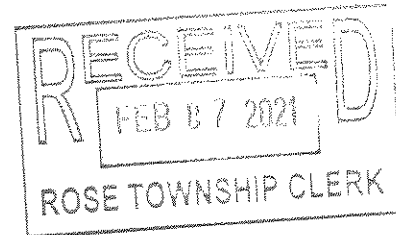
(734) 777-0629

[Jenny.musulin@gmail.com](mailto:Jenny.musulin@gmail.com)

## Debbie Miller

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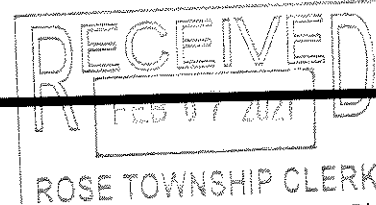
**From:** Debbie Miller  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 12:57 PM  
**To:** 'lindasmith2179@yahoo.com'  
**Subject:** The Devoted Barn



Ms. Smith,  
Thank you for your letter. I see you have sent it to the entire board for review.

*Debbie Miller, MMC, MiPMC II*  
*Rose Township Clerk*  
*9080 Mason Street*  
*Holly, MI 48442*  
*[clerk@rosetownship.com](mailto:clerk@rosetownship.com)*  
*Phone: (248) 634-8701*  
*Fax: (248) 634-6888*

**Debbie Miller**



**From:** Linda Smith <lindasmith2179@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 9:24 AM  
**To:** diane@rosetownship.com; Debbie Miller; Glen Noble; Patricia Walls; Dave Plewes  
**Subject:** The Devoted Barn  
**Attachments:** 1FB4AEA4-E652-410D-9A16-42ADCA96C919.jpeg; B8723EF6-8418-4CB2-8929-C6602B5604A2.jpeg; 2EEDB9A9-BE5E-4126-AFDC-2D9F2252C121.jpeg; 61761E3A-794E-46FE-B9DD-F0938CC9D88D.jpeg

Dear Township Members,

Like all small towns, word travels fast. It has been brought to my attention that TDB now has a new campaign to have volunteers and followers write to you stating that it is a death sentence for the dogs, if they are forced to be moved off of the property. First of all, where is the worst place they might go? A foster who will work one on one with them, another dog rescue who knows how to work with scared dogs or Animal Control. Even being put in Animal Control, the dogs would be in a facility that has controlled temperatures. No more subzero temperature days and nights in the winter with their water frozen so that the volunteers have to take a mallet to break the ice numerous times so they can have water. No more summer days of 90+ temperatures with smells of urine turning into ammonia that is unbearable, not to mention the hundreds of flies. To have 24/7 access to clean drinking water not slimy water from the well. To have dedicated volunteers still willing to love on them and even have MORE time to put real training into them to advance them into loving homes. Where they will receive needed medical care and supplies without waiting for needed donations to come in first. When Miss Borden was told the dogs would have to move this past summer, numerous volunteers looked into renting other facilities but that was shot down by Miss Borden. She didn't want to try and raise the money. But, she could rescue more medical needs horses and livestock which will cost many thousands of dollars for veterinary care. If Miss Borden truly cared about these dogs she would have been pushing to get them into foster homes not getting more puppies and having them go into foster homes.

I have included multiple examples from TDB's own FB page of FERAL and unleash trained barn dogs safely being put into homes. Not to mention Blackie, Poppy, Gilly, and the list goes on. Many of TDB dogs have been found out to be house trained when put into a home. Please educate yourself on their new false claims that it is a death sentence for the dogs. Most rescues would find it embarrassing that within 3 days the dog that sat for YEARS in your barn was leash trained and living in a house with a new pack and was thriving! In fact within months that "untrainable" barn dog was trained and in his permanent home. That dogs name is Micah and his story and also be found on FB. Micah is like the 3rd dog this man has saved from TDB.

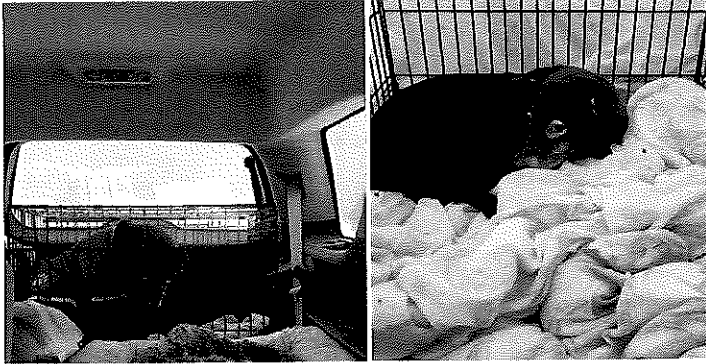
A local rescue, Adopt A Pet of Fenton, took in about 60+ feral dogs. Those animals were properly cared for considering their horrific situation they were removed from. They were found to be stable and safe to be placed in the correct permanent homes within probably 4-6 months. Again this just goes to show that if Ms. Borden really wants her volunteers and followers to inundate the Township with threats that is a death sentence for the dogs, well it says more about her rescue or lack of rescue. You can't show the public how you can place a feral, non-leash trained animal to live in a home and say it is a death sentence for the to leave the Barn.

Thank you for your time.

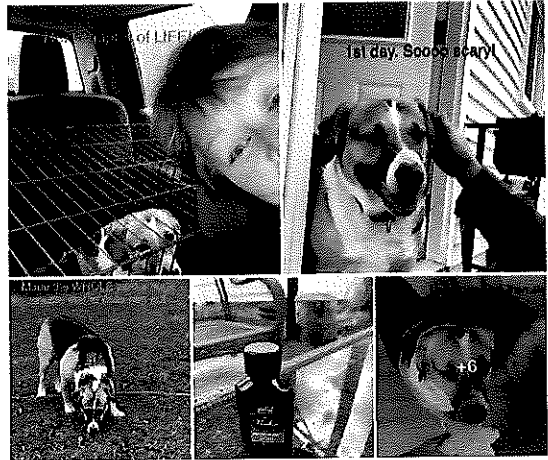
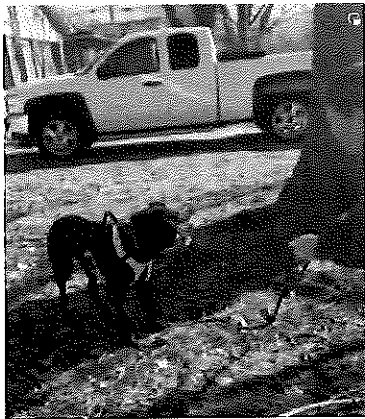
Linda Smith

Hello everyone. Exciting news. Thai is in his first home. He is extremely scared with all the new things but he is doing well. With one on one time hopefully we can get him to a forever home. Big thanks to my mom Julie for taking care of this wonderful old man.

KING'S journey, 3 week update.  
 So it's been the easiest transition ever!  
 King is such a good boy. I believe he was potty trained from day 1. Easy peasy. However, the snow put a damper on Kings and my happiness. Now I shovel paths to potty areas for him. Seems to be working.  
 I don't think King has ever really been outside. It's a whole new world for him and I that I love showing him. To help coax him outside, at my super smart daughters suggestion I made the whole yard a huge snuffle mat. I took a TON of treats and threw them all over the yard. It worked. She also recommended some deer pee so he would want to mark his territory. It worked again. These are 2 suggestions I would highly recommend to anyone!  
 King didn't take too kindly towards my daughter. He got 'growly', as AQ would say it took almost 3 weeks of her 'time' however I think we're there. It took a LOT of chicken 🍗! Almost had to cover her with peanut butter lol. Anyway, here's a few pics to 'mark' his journey. Leash training is next!



Update on Thai:  
 His first leashed outside adventure 🐾

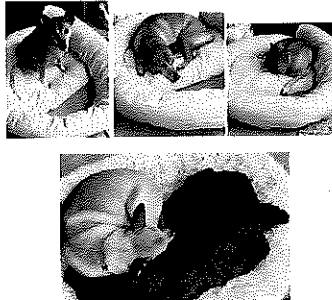


🐾Dree Update🐾

While Dree was with us in Newport and in Holly, I bought her more beds than I am willing to admit. She took great care of them and hoarded all of her goodies deep inside them until one day she would suddenly rip holes in the bed. I assume it was to better hide her treasures. Every time, off to the store I would go. I bought this bed for her about two months before she was adopted. I didn't get to say goodbye to my girl before she went home with her new Mom. However, I was SO relieved that her bed went with her (and probably all of her snuggly treasures inside 🥰). I made a collage of the pictures her Mom sent me to help tell the story:

"Dree had her most stressful day so far. I finally washed the bed she came with. Fibrette just couldn't do it anymore. She was panicking when I moved her stuff, until I helped her bury it in her snuffle mat. When I took the cover off her bed, she was so confused. Then she pouted, thinking I broke it, until the cover was dry. As soon as I got it back together, she rebounded her stash and took a much needed nap. LOL. I put it off as long as I could knowing how attached she is to it. She's doing wonderful. She has had a few baths now, not scared at all. She loves to go to my friend's farm and dig on weekends LOL. Thank you so much for this awesome little girl. I love her so much. 🐾🐾"

I am so grateful for the regular updates I receive from some of the adopters of our fearful pups. It reminds me why we do what we do for these sweet fur babies.

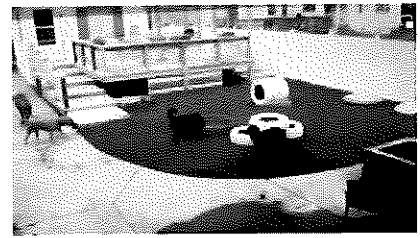




That people



I've been testing strategy outside with her. She's watching on the security cam. He mostly stares at the back door waiting for me. Neighborhood noises don't startle him and he isn't at all interested in the fence anymore. On a side note gilly is getting super playful outside. Yesterday she forgot she was feral for a second and ran right up to me



McGraw update because, well, why not? He is definitely home. He is so demanding, and I love it! That's the old McGraw that i fell in love with. I leave my back door open so he can go in and I out as he pleases (or he as a fit). His vision doesn't really hold him back much at all, he knows the layout of the house really well. He's so attached to me. He cries if he can't find me or if he hears a door because he thinks I left him. He whines in the kitchen if I'm late with his meal or he wants a snack lol. It's amazing having him in a home, being able to just spoil him.

Quarantine update from McGraw! I was extremely worried that he was missing his pack and feral room (i still think he's a tad homesick), but is really settling. I'm starting to see that silly, particular guy that I've worked with all these years. He is so funny! He's only kenneled to eat if I leave. He sleeps in his bedroom kennel and wants to go to bed earlier than I do, but complains if I'm not ready. He whines when I watch TV while I play my computer games before bed because I turn on a rain timer to fall asleep ( he likes the rain storm lol). If I'm cooking or doing dishes, he must be touching me at all times. He had his first holiday dinner on Easter. He really likes ham, but not mashed potatoes lol. He can go in and out by himself if I leave the door open. He knows his way around the house very well. Still waiting on a bath and hair cut. I want him more settled. All around, I think he's liking his comfy home life.



Friends! Caden here. Just writing to tell you I am doing fantastic! My first for Mom, Jamie, took great care of me after my surgery. Now I am staying in my foster Mom, Jean. I love living in a house and am a natural. And guess what, I am house trained, calm, and very respectful. I have 2 walks a day and am so good at playing fetch. Remember all the jumping I did in my bait kennel? Well I'm secretly training for the frisbee olympics! So much fun! Thanks to all my peeps for giving me a chance :3

I have some fantastic news to share! Some of my best friends, Jessica and Brandon have adopted our boy, Caden! @ @ @. He is SO happy with them. He is home! Caden now has his own man, brother, Kevlar, Kinsley, Cass, and doggie sister, Greta. Everyone is getting along great. I am beyond proud and my heart is full!

Thank you everyone who helped advocate for him since the day he arrived at the rescue. Thank you to my family for taking a chance on him after his surgery and bringing him to his home. Thank you to @ @ @ for @ @ @ and for helping me find a home for my best friend. Thank you to @ @ @ for helping me find a home for my best friend.

I will share updates as time goes on and will keep you all updated.



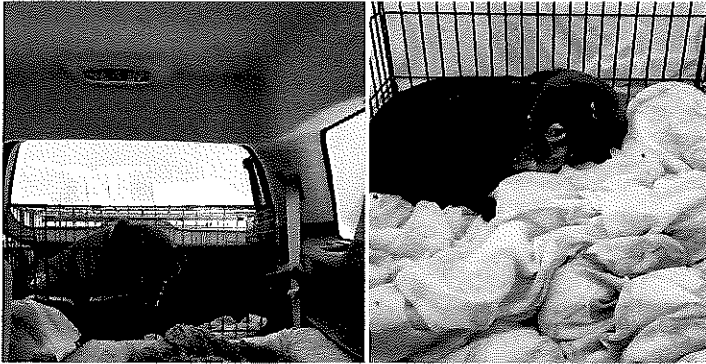
Update on Pup cat!

He is going on the way home. He is doing fine in his cage in the garage with the exception of howling at night like he's doing now. I think this is used to being around so many dogs and being alone is scary for him. I go out every hour at 10 and stay with him. He wants to come out of his kennel so badly and into the garage but won't take more than 3-5 mins. I open the door. He'll stare and sniff and wait for me to tell him and not to leave him the kennel. He'll bark and then stop. I opened the side door to the garage and he'll huff and bark and while he was so curious he went and started to go up to the back door. He'll bark and sniff and see outside and then get scared and go back in his crate. I'll leave the kennel through him lots of toys and made environment toys to keep him occupied while I'm at work today. He's calm. But scared. I have to leave him alone at night. He's moving an old couch into the garage and I'll be able to escape. I'm going to buy a table for him. Some noses scare him. Opening the door to the house scares him. I'm leaving him out, but he does want to go to bed and alone in his kennel.

It's going to take lots of time! I love this guy. He's come a long way. He's progressed at the farm and there is more to come. I hope in the tomorrow area is more than welcome to come see the boy. @ @ @ and any suggestions to help his anxiety. Howling at night let me know!



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Update on Thai;  
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I am so grateful for the regular updates I receive from some of the adopters of our fearful pups. It reminds me why we do what we do for these sweet fur babies.





Just people

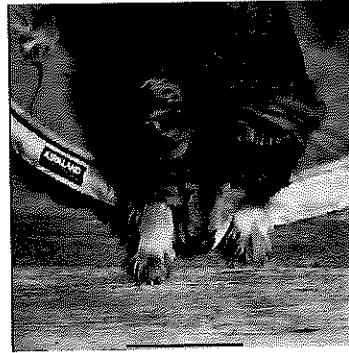


I've been acting happy but not much like the dog returning to my security cam. He mostly stares at the back door waiting for me. Neighborhood noises don't startle him and he isn't at all interested in the fence anymore. On a side note gilly is getting super playful outside. Yesterday she forgot the was feral for a second and ran right up to me



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I have some fantastic news to share! Some of my best friends, Jessica and Brandon have adopted our boy, Caden! He is 50 happy with them. He is home! Caden now has his own home, brother, Lindsay, Ransler, Gabe, and Cooper (sister Gabe). Everyone is getting along great. I am employed and my heart is full!

Thank you everyone who helped advocate for him since the day he arrived at the rescue. Thank you to my family for giving a chance on him after his surgery and bringing him home. Thank you to all the people who helped me and the hospital for helping with his vetting cost and medication. Thank you to all the people who helped with his vetting cost.

I will share updates as I'm sure I will receive them often.



Update on Pat-ck!

He did go out on the way home and it being that late he was late at the garage with the expectation of having at night like he's doing now. (I think he's to start being around so many dogs that being alone is scary for him. I go out every hour to and stay with him. He wants to come out of his kennel so badly and into the garage but won't take more than 3 steps. If I open the door, he's scared and usually won't let me to get him and to leave him the next. He's crying and doing what I learned the side door to the garage just to let him have fresh air and when he was so scared he just started head go up to the door (when he's kennel) and see outside and then get scared and go back into his state inside the kennel through the rest of boys and made something down to help him to cope with being to work today. He's calm, but scared. I have to leave him alone. All right to the morning and I'll touch into the garage with a quick hello. I'm going to buy a room for him, new ropes to start him. Closing the door to the house to see him in a rooming house, but he doesn't work out by just being there when I leave!

It's going to take a bit of time to love this guy. He's doing kind of good all the things around the barn and there is more to come. Again in the Overland area in those that people to come see this boy. 🐾🐾🐾 and any suggestions to ease his anxiety, knowing it might let me know!





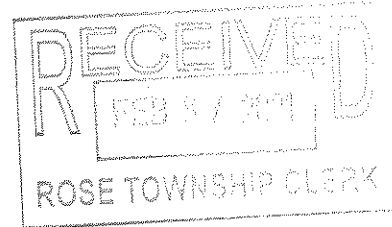
**Debbie Miller**

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**To:** Sarah Minter  
**Subject:** RE: letter of support for TDB

Dear Ms. Minter,  
Thank you for your letter and I see you have sent to the entire board for review.

*Debbie Miller, MMC, MiPMC II*  
*Rose Township Clerk*  
*9080 Mason Street*  
*Holly, MI 48442*  
*[clerk@rosetownship.com](mailto:clerk@rosetownship.com)*  
*Phone: (248) 634-8701*  
*Fax: (248) 634-6888*



**From:** Sarah Minter <sarah@johnwentworthgroup.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 11:15 AM  
**To:** dianne@rosetownshio.com; Debbie Miller <Clerk@rosetownship.com>; Paul Gambka <Treasurer@rosetownship.com>; Glen Noble <trustee1@rosetownship.com>; Patricia Walls <pwalls@rosetownship.com>; Melissa Borden <melborden5@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** letter of support for TDB

Attached is a letter being submitted for inclusion in the upcoming board meeting to be held Wednesday, February 9, 2022. I appreciate your time and consideration on this matter.

Respectfully,

--  
Sarah Minter  
Real Estate Professional  
John Wentworth Real Estate Group  
734-717-1068

## Debbie Miller

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**From:** Sarah Minter <sarah@johnwentworthgroup.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 11:15 AM  
**To:** dianne@rosetownshio.com; Debbie Miller; Paul Gambka; Glen Noble; Patricia Walls; Melissa Borden  
**Subject:** letter of support for TDB  
**Attachments:** Scan\_20220207\_092412 (1).pdf

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Respectfully,

--

Sarah Minter  
Real Estate Professional  
John Wentworth Real Estate Group  
734-717-1068

Good Day, My name is Sarah Minter, I have been a resident of Rose Twp for over 13 years and my address is 1455 E Rattalee Lake Rd

My family and I originally lived on Fish Lake and Rose Center. We moved into our new home on Rattalee in June. I share this because I am heavily invested in this area. I now have my forever home and it is in Rose Twp. Because of this, it is my responsibility to speak and share my experience with The Devoted Barn.

My husband once worked at the farm, which is now The Devoted Barn, decades ago as a kid, our daughter began taking lessons there when it was still owned by Huntington Ridge. We leased horses and eventually came to the decision to buy one. While our horse was under the care of Huntington Ridge, we were told that she needed to be kept in a pasture, alone and that she didn't get along with other horses. The small pasture she was put in, also didn't have any shelter for her to go to- even during the winter! I was told she didn't need it.

About this time Melissa Borden bought the property. Melissa was very involved from the beginning. She took the time to meet the people that participated in the Huntington Ridge schooling program, which she allowed to continue when she didn't have to. She and her volunteers began cleaning up the property and made it inviting to anyone that visited. We were all invited to meet the animals- the volunteers are wonderful! They would happily share with you what they were doing, perhaps what dog they were walking and the history of the animal. Watching what was going on, it made me want to be involved and learn more. The change was positive

Melissa had approached me and asked about the situation with my horse, Loretta, is her name. She shared her concern, in regards to her being outside with no shelter. She offered to have Loretta in one of her pastures, with other horses, and shelter. Shortly after the Covid shutdown, that is what happened. Wouldn't you know it, Loretta has happily been with multiple other horses since. Melissa Borden worked with my horse, to make her as happy and comfortable as possible. Loretta went from solitary confinement and no shelter with Huntington Ridge to having someone truly care and she has a completely different personality with the Devoted Barn. What a difference when someone who truly loves animals is involved. I am beyond grateful

Most of my experience with the devoted barn are with the horses, but I must say that every aspect of the organization is top notch- it must be since she is also the person that Oakland county trusts and gives their criminal cases to. That is correct- literally- the higher ups trust her and her rescue and rehabilitation program over anyone else in Oakland county-who of course is under the watchful eye of the state of Michigan. It is safe to say that she is visited often and the farm and its operations are monitored for quality.

There always be people that will talk, spread rumors or make ignorant accusations. It is so disappointing. I am certain that a group of intelligent and educated people would not allow

themselves to be pulled to such a low level. Melissa Borden is one of the most dedicated and hardworking people that I have ever had the pleasure of knowing.

I whole heartly support the Devoted Barn in Rose Twp. From the positive events, allowing families to enjoy the simple experience of spending an afternoon together in our community to the dog program which saves animals from hording cases, abuse where dogs have literally froze to the ground, sexual abuse- it goes on. I welcome and support saving more animals and allowing an opportunity for faith in humanity to be restored. I ask that you look at the bigger picture and take this opportunity to renew and strengthen this community to make it better than it is in this moment. Let us grow- be better

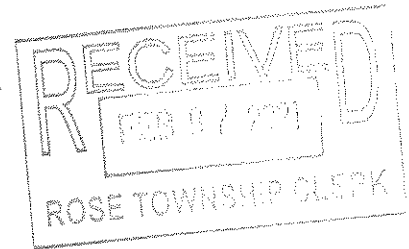
## Debbie Miller

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**From:** Debbie Miller  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 12:04 PM  
**To:** 'Andrea P'  
**Subject:** RE: The Devoted Barn

Dear Ms. Petzold,  
Thank you for your letter. I see you have sent to the entire board for their review before the meeting.

*Debbie Miller, MMC, MiPMC II*  
*Rose Township Clerk*  
*9080 Mason Street*  
*Holly, MI 48442*  
*[clerk@rosetownship.com](mailto:clerk@rosetownship.com)*  
*Phone: (248) 634-8701*  
*Fax: (248) 634-6888*



**From:** Andrea P <[mcbtenor@gmail.com](mailto:mcbtenor@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 11:21 AM  
**To:** Dianne Scheib-Snider <[Dianne@rosetownship.com](mailto:Dianne@rosetownship.com)>; Debbie Miller <[Clerk@rosetownship.com](mailto:Clerk@rosetownship.com)>; Paul Gambka <[Treasurer@rosetownship.com](mailto:Treasurer@rosetownship.com)>; Glen Noble <[trustee1@rosetownship.com](mailto:trustee1@rosetownship.com)>; Patricia Walls <[pwalls@rosetownship.com](mailto:pwalls@rosetownship.com)>  
**Subject:** The Devoted Barn

Dear Board Members

I am writing to you today in support of The Devoted Barn. First, a little background. My husband and I moved to Rose Township in December of 2019. Our house and property are what we dreamed of having, and we are so happy to be able to live here. After Covid hit, my job went remote. Shortly after that we experienced some painful personal losses. To say I was struggling emotionally would be an understatement. That's when I found The Devoted Barn. I went for a tour in September of 2020 and began volunteering in the dog room in October. I have been there nearly every Wednesday evening and Saturday morning since.

What working with the dogs at The Devoted Barn has given me can't be quantified, or put into words. I love these dogs. They come from places where they have been abused and neglected and have never experienced love. Yet they learn to trust and give love in return. Since I started I have witnessed so many wonderful moments. When a dog allows touch for the first time. Or a dog, too scared to come out of its kennel when humans are around, decides to explore and take treats at play time. These aren't isolated incidents. They are happening all of the time. And it's because of 2 things. One, dogs are resilient and amazing in their capacity to forgive and trust. And two, the barn family is full of volunteers who give of themselves fully to help rehabilitate these animals.

There is a quote attributed to Mark Twain that says "The more I learn about people, the more I like my dog". I can identify with this quote. I am someone who generally prefers the company of animals to that of people. Therefore please understand that my loyalty is to the animals. If I felt that they were being abused or neglected in any way I would not stand idly by. I cannot stress that point enough. I spend over 10 hours a week in the dog room. I have first-hand knowledge of what happens there. I am invested in these animals. And I believe with my entire being that this is the

best place for them. And while I may not be a fan of people, I have come to love and respect the people in this barn family. Their devotion and compassion as a community of volunteers is something I have never witnessed before.

These dogs are the hard cases. The ones that are completely shut down and labeled as unadoptable at shelters. But they are no less worthy of our love or time. They deserve a chance. And a place where they are shown love and compassion. And for many of these dogs, all the patience and love pays off and we get to see them go to their forever home. For the others, we will keep working tirelessly and meet them where they are. And provide for their needs the rest of their life if need be, I am proud as a Rose Twp resident to have The Devoted Barn here in our community. Because it shows that we as a community value things like empathy and kindness and second chances.

Finally, I do not envy your position here. I give you credit to be called to be a public servant. I imagine on some (maybe most) days it can be a pretty thankless job. My hope is that you will see that the value of coming to an agreement with The Barn far outweighs the costs of continuing this fight. It kills me that my tax dollars are going to fight this sanctuary that I love, and that has given me so much. So as those that have the task to stand up for the citizens of this community, I felt you should know that as a resident, I stand with The Devoted Barn.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,  
Andrea Petzold  
18166 Hickory Ridge Rd

## Debbie Miller

---

**From:** Andrea P <mcbtenor@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 11:21 AM  
**To:** Dianne Scheib-Snider; Debbie Miller; Paul Gambka; Glen Noble; Patricia Walls  
**Subject:** The Devoted Barn

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Sincerely,  
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18166 Hickory Ridge Rd

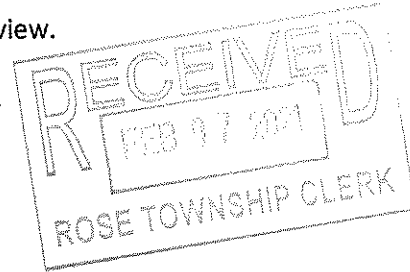
## Debbie Miller

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**From:** Debbie Miller  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 12:07 PM  
**To:** 'beth morfino'  
**Subject:** RE: The Devoted Barn

Dear Ms. Morfino,  
Thank you for your letter. I see you have sent to the entire board for review.

*Debbie Miller, MMC, MiPMC II*  
*Rose Township Clerk*  
*9080 Mason Street*  
*Holly, MI 48442*  
*[clerk@rosetownship.com](mailto:clerk@rosetownship.com)*  
*Phone: (248) 634-8701*  
*Fax: (248) 634-6888*



**From:** beth morfino <mcbeth79@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 11:26 AM  
**To:** Dianne Scheib-Snyder <Dianne@rosetownship.com>; Debbie Miller <Clerk@rosetownship.com>; Paul Gambka <Treasurer@rosetownship.com>; Glen Noble <trustee1@rosetownship.com>; Patricia Walls <pwalls@rosetownship.com>  
**Subject:** The Devoted Barn

Dear Rose Township Board Members,

I am a current volunteer at the Devoted Barn. I take my 12-year-old daughter there with me weekly to feed and care for the animals. We spend most of our time with the horses, but fill in, in the other areas as needed.

I started volunteering in the Barn back in the fall, as a way to foster my daughter's love for animals, and to grow her understanding of what it takes to care for animals who are in special need of care. She hopes to be a veterinarian one day, and I thought this would be a perfect way for her to become familiar with the good, the bad, and the ugly around caring for animals. While we ultimately want our fur friends to live forever, sometimes loving them the best we can for the time we have is all we can do.

I must admit that when I first heard of the devoted barn, I did not understand what they did completely. I thought it was a shelter of sorts for dogs and other animals that may have been neglected and would soon be adopted. But through my work there I have found it is so much more. These dogs are the children who time out of foster care! The ones that no one will adopt because their past has scarred them to the point where trusting people is too hard. The ones who have been abused by the hand that feeds them and starved by the hand that should be feeding them. The ones who are born with a disability too serious for a parent to accept. Clearly this is an analogy, but I hope you understand, just like we have human children, who have been through things most of us can only imagine, they lose trust and hope, and in need of a home. These dogs have the same mental anguish. And just like those children who often age out of foster care and get sent to the streets to fend for themselves, and often add to our drug and homeless problems, these dogs cannot take care of themselves. If these dogs are forced to go to a "normal" shelter, they will be adopted to homes who are ill prepared to care for their needs. The cycle will continue, and the dog will be sent back to the shelter scared and confused never having a forever home. The Devoted Barn is their home. where they are



given ALL the time they need to learn to trust again, whether it's a year or a lifetime. They are taught love and compassion can come from humans.

The Devoted Barn and it's volunteers are doing the work to care for these animals that no one else will care for. Giving their time to provide love for those in need. These animals are without a voice. My heart can't handle the thought of where Frankie would be without the barn. If you don't know, Frankie is a large draft horse saved from the kill pen. She suffers from a chronic disease. She needs daily care to maintain her health. I would ask yourself; how many homes are willing to give that? How many have the ABILITY to give that? It takes a VILLAGE to care for her! And what she gives us in return is even more! If there was no barn, where would she be?... I don't want to know, and Frankie is only ONE of many.

Please consider my experience when making your decisions on how to proceed with the ruling on the dogs at the devoted barn. All animals deserve a chance, a home, and love. The Devoted Barn is providing that to all of them!

Thank you!

Beth Morfino

## Debbie Miller

---

**From:** beth morfino <mcbeth79@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 11:26 AM  
**To:** Dianne Scheib-Snider; Debbie Miller; Paul Gambka; Glen Noble; Patricia Walls  
**Subject:** The Devoted Barn

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Thank you!

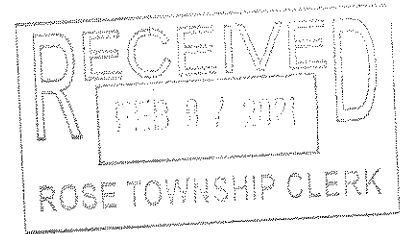
Beth Morfino

## Debbie Miller

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**From:** Dianne Scheib-Snider  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 12:12 PM  
**To:** Debbie Miller; Paul Gambka; Patricia Walls; Glenn Noble; Glen Noble  
**Subject:** FW: Letter in Support of Devoted Barn

**From:** Beth Eriksson <baeriksson@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 12:10 PM  
**To:** Dianne Scheib-Snider <Dianne@rosetownship.com>  
**Subject:** Letter in Support of Devoted Barn



February 7, 2022

Dear Ms. Scheib-Snider,

My name is Beth Eriksson and I am writing to you today on behalf of The Devoted Barn. I have been a volunteer for the barn for 6 years. My area of concentration at the barn is with the dogs but I also help in other areas as needed. I am part of the fundraising team and am the Volunteer Coordinator. The Devoted Barn is a very important part of my life and the lives of so many others. I am writing you today to kindly request that you read my letter and attachments and those of others who are impacted by this program, with an open heart and an open mind.

We are hopeful that we can work together with the township to bring about a conclusion that is beneficial to both parties. I implore you to consider the settlement that Melissa Bordon has proposed. It will be beneficial to both parties and will end a situation that has gone on to long now. I truly don't believe that in your hearts any of you want to see the program that these dogs depend on and that the volunteers have worked so hard on disposed of. These animals have already been thru such horrific things in their lives all ready, why put them thru more by ending the only positive thing they know.

I have compiled a photo essay of some of our dogs and our dog volunteers so that you can see these dogs are loved, cared for and are rehabilitating. I have also put together some of the many "Happy Tails" stories that the dogs in our program have had. And finally, I have written about the sanctuary in an essay entitled "Through the Eyes of a Volunteer." Please take the time to read what I have written, think about it and what it means and when you sit down to vote please remember my words, the faces of the animals, the horrors that they have faced in their lives and how important this program is to them. We here at the barn want nothing more than to work with all of you to make this program an integral part of the community of Rose Township.

## The Devoted Barn

### Through the Eyes of a Volunteer

By Beth Eriksson

Have you ever walked into a place where the hush of the world surrounds you? Have you been somewhere where you feel a peacefulness and tranquility while you are there? Well, that is what it is like for me and so many others when we walk into the Devoted Barn. This is so amazing it feels this way because we can shut out the world and concentrate just on the animals we care for.

The animals at the Devoted Barn are animals that no one else will or can't take. I like to call them unique because they all have come from different situations with different struggles that they need help with. They have come from kill pens, hoarding and criminal cases, from animal control, abuse situations, neglect cases, and from the Thailand meat trade. Sometimes their stories are so horrific that I want to shut my mind and my eyes from them.... but I can't. If the world closes their eyes and mind to these situations...then who will be there to help them and what does that make us as a society.

The volunteers here at the barn are amazing and all with a different passion for different areas of the barn. The one thing they have in common is their strong commitment to give our animals what they deserve. 365 days a year our volunteers are bustling around the barn and in the pastures. They make sure that ever animal is fed, watered, given their medications if they need them and given enrichment to keep their minds stimulated. They battle all types of weather and other situations that arise, making sure the animals all have comfy living conditions.

Most of our animals are fearful, have medical issues or trust issues. It takes time to help them rehabilitate, to trust again or to recover from their medical issues. We go slow with them and give them the time to heal both physically and emotionally. Most people don't understand these types of animals because they have never worked with them. Just look into their eyes and they will tell you what they need. Love.

Are we perfect? Of course not, no organization is. I can guarantee though that each and every day our volunteers and leadership team make sure our animals get what they need. We are always striving to learn a new way of doing things to improve on any area we can. New medical treatments, new types of shelters, new enrichment ideas and new feeding ideas are always on our minds. The entire Devoted Barn team goes above and beyond to take care of the animals we love.

There will always be people who don't like us, don't believe in us and talk negatively about us. That doesn't matter because to Kenny, Frankie, Sunshine, Prince, Peabody, Selena, Gary, Ryan, Lucy and so many others ... we have Made a Difference. These people don't know us but to those who take the time to visit us and to get to know the animals and volunteers know we are a compassionate and empathetic organization that educates people of all ages on compassion. We treat our animals with love and compassion and in the end, that is what matters.

Sincerely,

Beth Eriksson

[baeriksson@yahoo.com](mailto:baeriksson@yahoo.com)

248-497-2817

## Debbie Miller

---

**From:** Beth Eriksson <baeriksson@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 12:12 PM  
**To:** Debbie Miller  
**Subject:** Letter in support of the Devoted Barn - 2 attachments  
**Attachments:** Happy Tales.docx; These Faces.docx

February 7, 2022

Dear Ms. Miller,

My name is Beth Eriksson and I am writing to you today on behalf of The Devoted Barn. I have been a volunteer for the barn for 6 years. My area of concentration at the barn is with the dogs but I also help in other areas as needed. I am part of the fundraising team and am the Volunteer Coordinator. The Devoted Barn is a very important part of my life and the lives of so many others. I am writing you today to kindly request that you read my letter and attachments and those of others who are impacted by this program, with an open heart and an open mind.

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Sincerely,

Beth Eriksson

[baeriksson@yahoo.com](mailto:baeriksson@yahoo.com)

248-497-2817





## Happy Tales

With the work that our volunteers do with the dogs in The Devoted Dog Program we have had so many success stories. These dogs were shut down, fearful of humans, but all they wanted was love. Now they are adopted and living in amazing homes....living the life they were meant to.

These are just a few of the many success stories that we have had this past year.



King is a dog who came to us from a hoarding case in Oklahoma where 87 dogs were rescued from a single wide mobile home. I remember seeing pictures of King and the dogs from the hoarding case he came from; it broke my heart. They all were so fearful. King wasn't exactly friendly at first but now with all the patience and work of the barn volunteers at the sanctuary he has come to be one of the friendliest dogs. He loves to give kisses, get pets, join roll call and play with his friends. He is now in his forever home. He has learned about all kinds of new things like backyards and pup cups and doggie cookies and car rides and making snow angels which is one of his favorites.



Blackie came to The Devoted Barn from Toledo. He spent many years with his elderly owner who would take him for daily walks through the neighborhood. They were very bonded. Unfortunately, when his owner passed away, the gentleman's family did not want to keep Blackie so he was left behind in the neighborhood. Blackie continued to make his daily walks throughout the neighborhood for years. The neighbors fed and cared for him. He would spend time watching the neighbor garden, just like he did with his prior owner. He is quite loyal and was protective of the

kids in the neighborhood. When new people moved into Blackie's prior home, they started chasing him off. That's when a rescue contacted The Devoted Barn who went and brought him back to the barn. Blackie is approximately 10 years old and this past year he has found his forever home and is doing wonderful.



Dazzle came to us from Thailand in July of 2017 via the Soi Dog Foundation. We don't know how old she is, but believe she is between 5 and 7 years old. She was very fearful and shut down in Thailand. We can only imagine the trauma she went thru while she was in the meat trade. Our volunteers worked with her with patience, love and enrichment tools. Dazzle started to show us that she was beginning to trust our volunteers and wants to interact with all of us. Dazzle went to a foster home to learn how to live in a home and has just recently moved on to her forever home.



Thai He is doing well with his foster mom and fur sister. He is a stubborn old man and is making slow progress on potty training. It's done on his terms lol. He loves to greet people at the door but won't hesitate to bark at you if you don't belong. He is spoiled with all the treats and has run of the house but enjoys snuggling up on his bed.



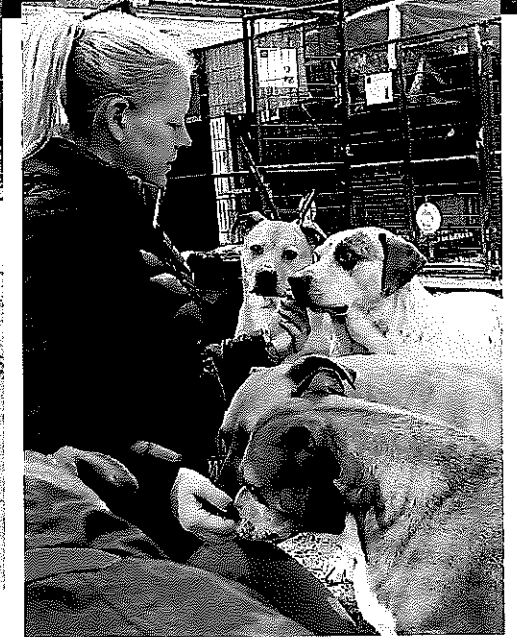
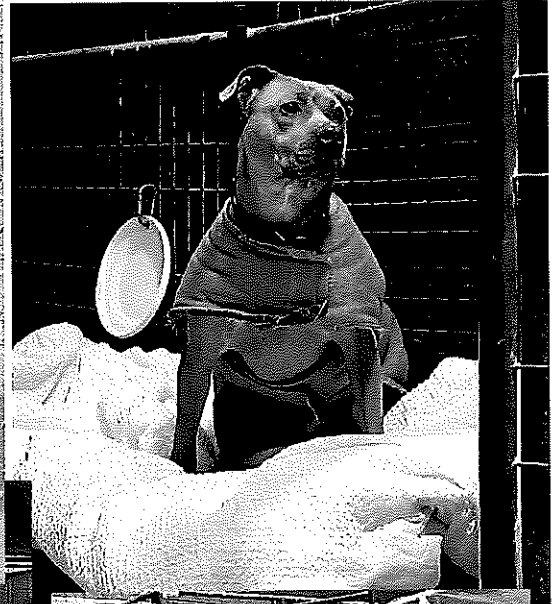
Dora is around 12 years old. She came to the barn from the SOI Dog Foundation in Thailand in November of 2017. Her Soi dog records show craniodorsal right hip luxation (usually caused by traumatic injury). The vet here in Union lake mentioned that seems to match up with a lot of what I see in Dora is degenerative myelopathy. Dora has been adopted by her foster mom. Dora's most favorite activity is long walks with her rear-lift harness. Her disability doesn't slow her down one bit. She only accepts the highest quality of food and treats. She has the most precious snore when she's sleeping.

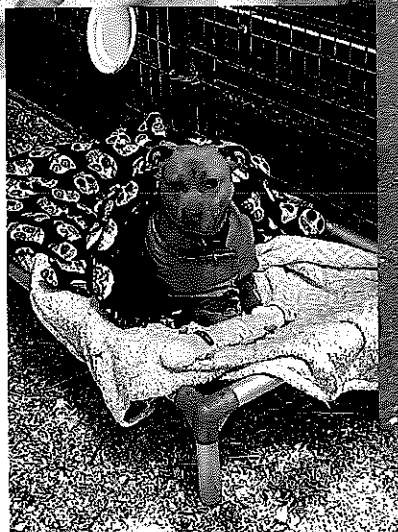
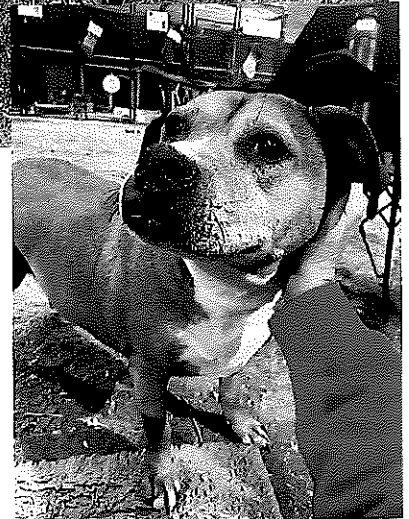
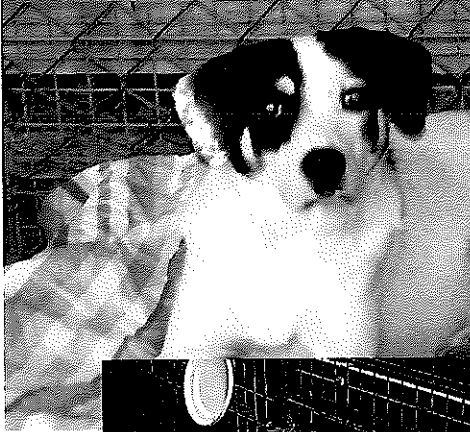
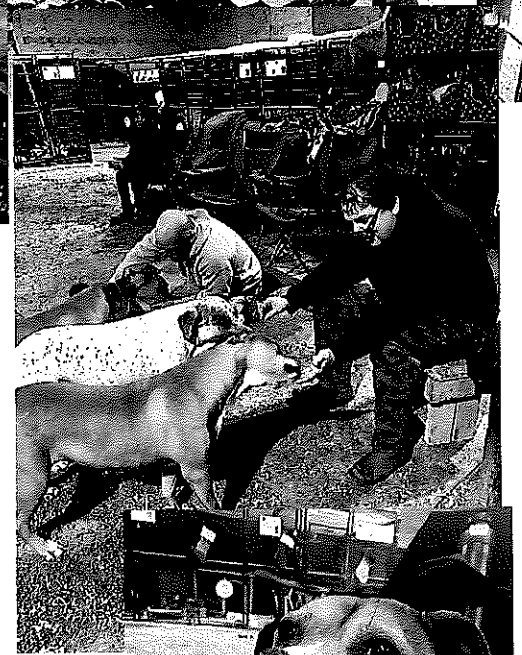


Dree came to The Devoted Barn all the way from Thailand where she was rescued from the former dog meat trade. When Dree arrived she was a shy dog who was very fearful at first, but that's understandable considering where she came from and what she had been through in her life before her rescue. After some time at the Devoted Barn where the volunteers gained her trust, showed her that all humans were not terrible she came out of her shell and was ready for her forever home. She found her ideal home with her adoptive mom where it was quiet, peaceful, and relaxed. Although she is a senior dog she loves long walks, petting, chewies, treats, cuddly beds and toys.

These are some of the dogs and volunteers of the Devoted Barn.  
Please remember these faces when you make your decision because  
In the end, it is all about them.







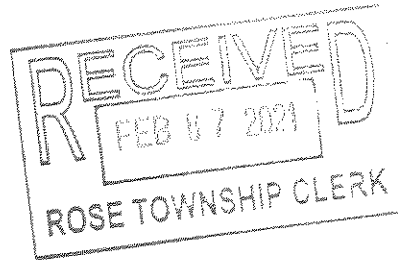
## Debbie Miller

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**To:** Nicole Garrison  
**Subject:** RE: Another Supporter of The Devoted Barn

Ms. Garrison,  
Thank you for your letter and i see that you have sent it to the entire board for review.

*Debbie Miller, MMC, MiPMC II*  
*Rose Township Clerk*  
*9080 Mason Street*  
*Holly, MI 48442*  
*[clerk@rosetownship.com](mailto:clerk@rosetownship.com)*  
*Phone: (248) 634-8701*  
*Fax: (248) 634-6888*



**From:** Nicole Garrison <[garrisonnl@hotmail.com](mailto:garrisonnl@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 2:12 PM  
**To:** Dianne Scheib-Snider <[Dianne@rosetownship.com](mailto:Dianne@rosetownship.com)>; Debbie Miller <[Clerk@rosetownship.com](mailto:Clerk@rosetownship.com)>; Patricia Walls <[pwalls@rosetownship.com](mailto:pwalls@rosetownship.com)>; Glen Noble <[trustee1@rosetownship.com](mailto:trustee1@rosetownship.com)>  
**Subject:** Another Supporter of The Devoted Barn

Good afternoon Board Members,

I am a resident of Holly and am a volunteer at The Devoted Barn. I spoke up at the last board meeting in support of The Devoted Barn. I know you are getting a lot of emails from fellow supporters and the reason is simple; it is an amazing place.

In my speech at the last meeting, I encouraged you all to come and visit us at the barn and I am wondering if any members were able to?

I have been a volunteer for about a year and half and I work with the dogs. I can assure you of a few things. These dogs are happy and they are taken care of. They receive more routine veterinarian care than most animals that I have seen who have homes. If a dog is acting like something is bothering them, they are looked at by our licensed vet ASAP. They are given medication should they need it. That is better care than some dogs who have owners and its certainly care they never received before The Devoted Barn.

These dogs eat very well. We have many volunteers who bring in rotisserie chickens, even roasts, to give the dogs a treat. They eat better than my own dog! Heck, they eat better than me! They are given plenty of food. If they are picky, we get them the food that they like. They eat twice a day and always have access to a bucket of water that is changed for freshness twice a day.

To expand on my earlier statement that these dogs are happy, I can assure you they receive love that they have never known until they arrived at the barn. I am literally unable to be at the barn without cuddling with Nyla. She loved cuddles more than any dog I have ever seen and that is why myself, and so many others, love letting her climb onto our laps and just hold her. I cannot see Oakley without giving her a belly rub that she

insists on. I cannot see Charity and not (forgive me for being so blunt) give her the butt scratches that she loves so much. I cannot look away from Duffy's kennel as she rearranges her furniture because she is so funny doing it! I am always amazed at Copper for, despite a birth defect, being able to zip around the barn at lightning speed. Each dog has their own sense of humor. They truly are a delight to spend time with. Seeing them come out for play time and chase each other and their favorite toys is our favorite thing to witness as volunteers. It's so important because before their life at The Devoted Barn, most were strays or meat trade dogs. They did not know how to play. If you are not someone who has spent time with dogs that come from backgrounds like that, it's hard to imagine a dog not being able to play but it is true. It is not until they come to the barn that they feel safe and happy enough to BE A DOG!

In the winter months, the dogs are given igloos that are filled with straw. In addition to that, we receive blanket donations from all of our supporters and they are given blankets that they love cuddling up in. I personally have dropped off blanket donations. They do NOT have to sit on dirt floors.

You have gotten so many letters from supporters because they know first hand how much we, as volunteers, love these dogs. What we are asking for is simple, we want to come to an agreement where all parties are happy. That IS a possible outcome. I know that Melissa has explained what she would be able to do to make the situation right and to make it so that all concerns are taken care of. She is a great person with a huge need to help animals; its who she is.

We ask that you let us make things right: for you, for us, and most of all, for the dogs. Let's remember that they are the innocent ones, and they deserve for us to fight for them. Compromise is the answer.

As always, I would love for you to contact me if you have any questions about our dogs or our dog program. Please feel free to contact me at (248)709-5506. I am always happy to chat about my Devoted Barn dogs!

Nicole Garrison-Mack of Holly



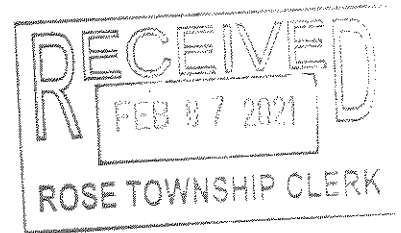
## Debbie Miller

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**To:** Elisabeth White  
**Cc:** Dianne Scheib-Snider; Paul Gambka; Paul Gambka; Glen Noble; Glen Noble; pat walls; Debbie Miller  
**Subject:** RE: Devoted Barn

Thank you Ms. White. I received your letter I will send to the entire board for review.

Debbie Miller, MMC, MiPMC II  
Rose Township Clerk  
9080 Mason Street  
Holly, MI 48442  
clerk@rosetownship.com  
Phone: (248) 634-8701  
Fax: (248) 634-6888



-----Original Message-----

**From:** Elisabeth White <elisabethw428@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 2:45 PM  
**To:** Debbie Miller <Clerk@rosetownship.com>  
**Subject:** Devoted Barn

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this email so that others may know of the wonderful experience I have had with Devoted Barn. Back in 2019, after being a long time resident of Rose Township (almost 30 years), my family and I had to sell our horse farm and relocate due to unfortunate circumstances that had come up. I was unable to take with me one of my beloved horses. I had heard of Devoted Barn that was just down the road from us. I had only heard wonderful things about this rescue, which led me to then make the decision to surrender my horse to them. I have been out to visit him numerous times whenever I'm downstate and in the Rose Township area. What I have seen at that farm is the wonderful care that he is being given as well as all of the other animals. Whether it be that they were surrendered, rescued, or sadly dumped off there, each animal is given love, care, all their medical needs (if they have any) are taken care of, their nutrition needs which vary from animal to animal are all met, and they are given a second chance in life. The dedication of the volunteers and of Melissa to these animals is a beautiful thing to personally witness. The world needs more people and organizations like Devoted Barn and I will always 100% support them. Rose Township, as I saw in my several decades of being a resident there, has always been animal friendly and wanting to maintain its agricultural roots. So knowing this, I think it is easy to believe that having a wonderful organization like Devoted Barn and their important mission to help these animals, is something that the township can be proud to say resides within its borders.

Thank you.

E. Pinkerton

Sent from my iPhone

## Debbie Miller

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**From:** njtube 9 <amills.19801@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 5:57 PM  
**To:** Dianne Scheib-Snider; Debbie Miller; Paul Gambka; Glen Noble; Patricia Walls  
**Cc:** melborden5@gmail.com  
**Subject:** The Devoted Barn

To whom it may concern,  
My name is Amanda Mills and I am writing as a volunteer for The Devoted Barn.

I started volunteering at the Devoted Barn in Dec of 2017. I have since volunteered every Saturday night in the dog room for the last 4+ years. I started volunteering after watching a live Facebook video about the dog program. I'm a nurturer by nature and have been around dogs my whole life. It sounded like something that would be great to get involved with. I had the time and they needed the help. I decided to bring my then 6-year-old son along with me, he loves dogs just as much as I. We started volunteering with the dogs on the weekend and quickly fell in love with them.

Through the years we have both learned so much about caring for dogs and dog behaviors. We've learned about caring for neonates and how to make enrichment for dogs. We learned about dog body language and how to leash train a dog that may be fearful of a leash. See, The Devoted Barn takes in abuse, neglect, and feral cases from all over the world and often cases from animal control. Learning all these things is helpful when caring for a dog that was abused before they came. They may be fearful of people, or feral. They may be fearful of life in a house having never heard a furnace come on or people knocking at the door. They may be neglected and never had a kind touch to let them know it's ok.

Working with these animals every weekend gives them a chance to see a kind person, know a kind touch, and hear kind voices. Each and every weekend I get to see a little more of each dog open up to us and enjoy feeling safe in their environment. They know when it's time to eat and when it is time to come out and play with their friends. We work every day with them on leash training. For the shy ones, taking treats means positive human interaction to get them on to their next journey in life. That's fostered in a home and then adopted into a loving family. That's our #1 goal. We want these dogs all to have a home one day.

In the past years since moving to Rose Township, we've seen so many improvements in the dogs and how much happier they are. We've also met a lot of new volunteers that are local to the rescue and have had some great new friendships built. The Devoted Barn put on some events at Halloween and Christmas time that invited the locals to come to see what we were about and it was a huge hit. There were so many people that showed up in support of animal rescue it was amazing. It made me feel happy to be part of something I always knew was an amazing place but for people to feel the same and want to volunteer and be part of it too.

The Devoted Barn dog program is needed to keep dogs off the streets. There are not many rescues that take in ferals and rehab them to get them adopted. I see posts every day on Facebook with dogs running in neighborhoods for years and no one is able to secure these dogs and get them back into a home where they should be. The Devoted Barn has been called for many cases from animal control where they don't have time or resources to be able to help that dog. The Devoted Barn takes those cases and works with them to get them into a home.

The Devoted Barn is an amazing place for animals to come get gain trust, get healthy, and find a home. I encourage the Board members and anyone else to come to see what it's about. I hope that coming to see what the dog program is about helps to stop what rumors are being written or told and that they are seen as

absolutely untrue and you, in turn, will see what good is happening and how much Rose Township can benefit from having a rescue like this in the community.

Sincerely, Amanda Mills

## Debbie Miller

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**From:** Leanne Johnson <michic40@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 5:54 PM  
**To:** Dianne Scheib-Snider; Debbie Miller; Paul Gambka; Glen Noble; Patricia Walls  
**Cc:** MelBorden5@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Letter of Support - The Devoted Barn  
**Attachments:** charity1.jpg; charityandking.jpg; strawberry1.jpg; Strawberry2.jpg

2/7/22

Leanne Johnson  
17176 Jon Jon Terrace  
Holly, MI 48442

Dear Rose Township Officials,

As a current volunteer for The Devoted Barn, I am writing to offer support of the dog program. I volunteer up to twenty hours per week, sometimes 7 to 8 hours a shift, and the dogs at the barn have become an important part of my life. It has also become a place of solace and healing for me personally. After enduring a major health battle, I'd been suffering from anxiety. Since becoming involved with The Devoted Barn, my mental health and quality of life has improved immensely. The rescue is a place where I can go to decompress and solely focus on the care and well-being of the dogs. It's extremely fulfilling to see the progress of dogs that were once very fearful of humans; now accepting human touch. Let me assure you that every single dog at the barn receives the attention, love and care they deserve. I am proud to be involved in this program and contribute to their progress.

There is a misconception by some, that the dogs in the program are not being rehabilitated. You must first understand each one's history. Most of the dogs come from very traumatic situations and some are feral. A feral dog is very fearful and untrusting of humans. It takes time to earn their trust and to assure them that humans are okay. Charity is a great example of a fearful dog. She came to TDB from Genesee County Animal Control and hid in her kennel because she did not want to be seen. She was extremely shut-down and feral. Over time and with a lot of patience, compassion and training techniques, she has flourished. She is now a very happy girl that seeks attention, belly scratches and chin rubs. Charity enjoys running and playing with her buddies at the barn. She will soon be ready to go into a permanent home. I have attached a picture of Charity and another with her and King, who is now doing great in his foster-to-adopt home.

Strawberry is one of TDB criminal cases. Oakland County Animal Control works closely with Melissa Borden to house criminal/abuse cases. Due to the irreversible damage she sustained by her abuser, she is a permanent resident at TDB. Strawberry is a barn favorite and receives many visitors. She is very sweet and loves to snuggle with the volunteers. Despite her horrific past, she is a happy girl and brings so much joy to everyone that spends time with her. Some of my favorite

moments as a volunteer have been spent with Strawberry. Attached is a picture of Strawberry with additional information about her.

Melissa Borden has provided a safe haven for the dogs. On a daily basis, the volunteers devote hours of their time to ensure the dogs have fresh water, food, enrichment, clean kennels and adequate shelter to protect them from the elements. During cold weather, the dogs have igloos with straw to keep them warm. The dogs go out to play in groups. All of the dogs at the rescue receive veterinary care and medication when necessary. They depend on a regular routine, familiar surroundings and people they know that care for them. They receive this structure every day. To move them would be detrimental to their health and well-being. It would also disrupt the progress that so many of them have made.

I would not give my time and personal resources to The Devoted Barn if I believed the owner, Melissa Borden, went against the very mission she created; "Teaching compassion through positive action." When it comes to animal welfare and rehabilitation, Melissa Borden is the epitome of "compassion." I have learned so much about feral/fearful dogs, proper training techniques and see first-hand how committed Melissa is in providing and maintaining sufficient housing and loving care for the dogs in the program. I love these dogs as my own and am committed to continue caring for them. The Devoted Barn is a place for new beginnings, compassion and hope. Please stop by and visit the rescue in person. You will see for yourselves, the great work that is done there. I also encourage you to drop the lawsuit against Melissa Borden and The Devoted Barn and allow the dog program to remain at their current location in Rose Township.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Leanne Johnson











Devoted Barn

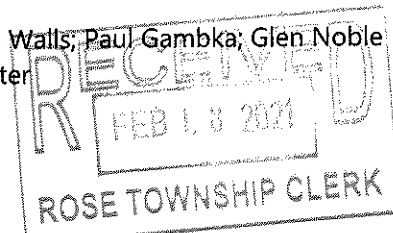
Strawberry

Strawberry came to the barn as an abuse case. She was beaten by her previous owner causing permanent neurological damage. Due to the damage she has suffered, her back legs don't work properly (some days she can get up but can't run). She is treated like a mega E dog and is fed in a special chair that allows her food to flow down to her stomach while she sits up. The abuse damage has caused a signal from her brain not to always talk to her esophagus, causing her not to swallow properly. Strawberry has her own room and needs quite a few blankets to keep her warm and to save her from getting sores from dragging her legs!

## Debbie Miller

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**From:** Jeana Truckey <jeanatruckey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 6:38 PM  
**To:** Debbie Miller; Dianne Scheib-Snyder; Patricia Walls; Paul Gambka; Glen Noble  
**Subject:** Thank you for taking the time to read my letter



Hello, my name is Jeana Truckey.

I am someone who volunteers and has adopted from The Devoted Barn over the past 6 years. I would like to tell you about 3 dogs I have fostered or adopted from The Devoted Barn.

First, there is Joplin. She was a very old girl dropped off at the shelter with a hunched back and could barely walk. Melissa pulled her knowing she wouldn't live long, but this girl didn't need to die in the shelter with no one around her she loved or loved her. I was asked if I would bring Joplin into my home for hospice care. After seeing the vet and being put on some medication Joplin felt like a whole new dog. She ended up living 2 years happy and healthy. If Melissa didn't feel compassion and pull sweet Joplin, she would have died in the animal shelter. She wouldn't have lived 2 more years and brought so much joy to my life. Joplin passed away in my arms peacefully knowing she was loved.

My second dog is Rosie. Rosie was living in the backyard with 161 other dogs in Tehachapi California. She lived in the back yard never feeling human touch. When the 161 dogs were rescued, Rosie and 2 other dogs were the worst of the worst. Someone in California reached out to The Devoted Barn asking if they could take the 3 small dogs. The Devoted Barn specializes in rehabilitating fearful feral dogs. The dogs were too small to be at the Barn, so Melissa Borden ask if I could take Rosie and work with her. Melissa taught me everything I needed to know to rehabilitate her. It took 6 months to get her where she was comfortable with us. Now Rosie is the sweetest love bug, She loves everyone! Out of all the dogs I've ever had, mine and Rosie's bond is unexplainable. I think it's because for a long time Rosie only looked to me to show her she is safe and human touch actually feels good. As I'm writing this Rosie is laying right next to me. If it wasn't for what The Devoted Barn does, Rosie would have been euthanized! I would never have her or our bond. Rosie was 3 when I got her and she has many more years left with us. It's sad to know that she could have been euthanized had someone in California had not advocated for her.

The 3rd dog I adopted from The Devoted Barn is Lola. Lola has a cleft lip. Lola's breeder called when she and 3 siblings were born with cleft lips and palates. They can not survive without being tube fed every 2 hours. Melissa and a few other volunteers took shifts in taking care of Lola and her siblings day and night. Lola is now 7 months old and she is the funniest puppy. She is 40 pounds and thinks she has to sleep on our head.

If it wasn't for Melissa Borden and The Devoted Barn I wouldn't have my sweet dogs. My dogs are just as important to me as my children. The dogs that are currently at the Barn were in the same situation as my babies. If it wasn't for the program at the Barn they likely would have been euthanized not knowing love or human touch. The dogs are very loved by all the volunteers. We have watched these dogs go from being scared and shaking hiding in the back of a kennel to asking for pets and loving to run around, play with toys, and simply be a dog for the first time in their life.

Removing these dogs will take away everything that makes them feel safe. They will revert back into the scared fearful dog again. Some of these took years to feel safe and could be adopted in the future. Taking them from their safe home will take away all the progress they have made. We have dogs that came from the meat trade. They were tortured alive because in that country they think it makes the meat better. The Barn is the only thing the dogs know that has ever been nice to them. We have a few meat trade dogs that are now adopted and living in a home. The end goal is to have all dogs in a home. However, if they never get to that point, they are loved and well taken care of.

I ask everyone on the board that is making the decision whether or not to take the dogs safe home from them to come to visit the Barn. Come see how happy they are and how much time and energy every single day the volunteers put into these dogs. We have to be the voice for these dogs because there are so many people who just don't care what happens to them. This whole situation has really affected my 12-year-old daughter. She isn't old enough to understand what is going on. She just knows that the dogs she has grown to love over the years may not have a home anymore. The Barn has a lot of pre-teen and teenagers who volunteer. They are struggling with possibly not being able to see the dogs and work with them anymore.

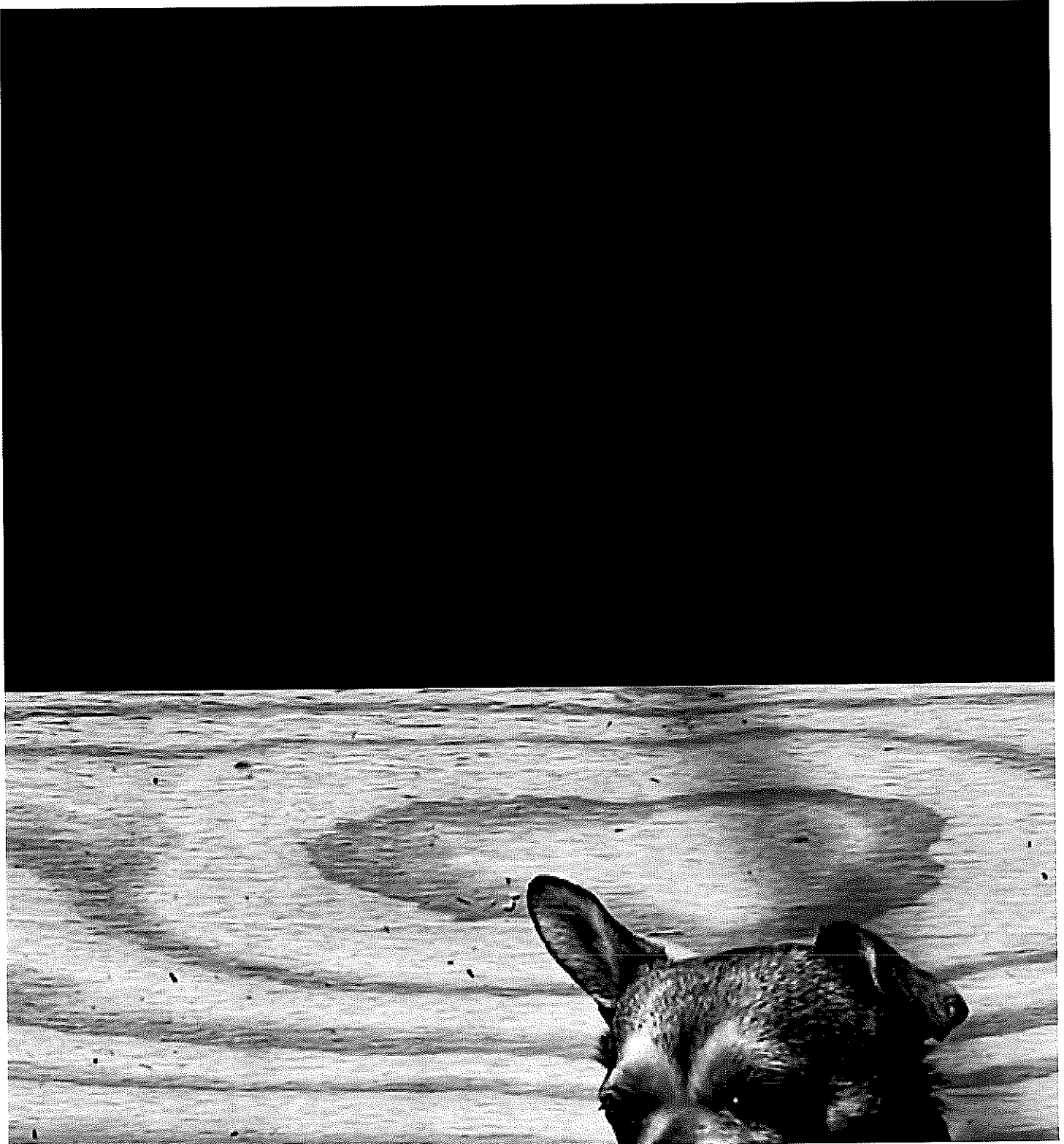
There are so many people and animals who will be hurt if we are unable to build a new building for the dogs. I hope you find it in your heart to allow the dogs to stay on the property.

Thank you, Jeana Truckey

**Debbie Miller**

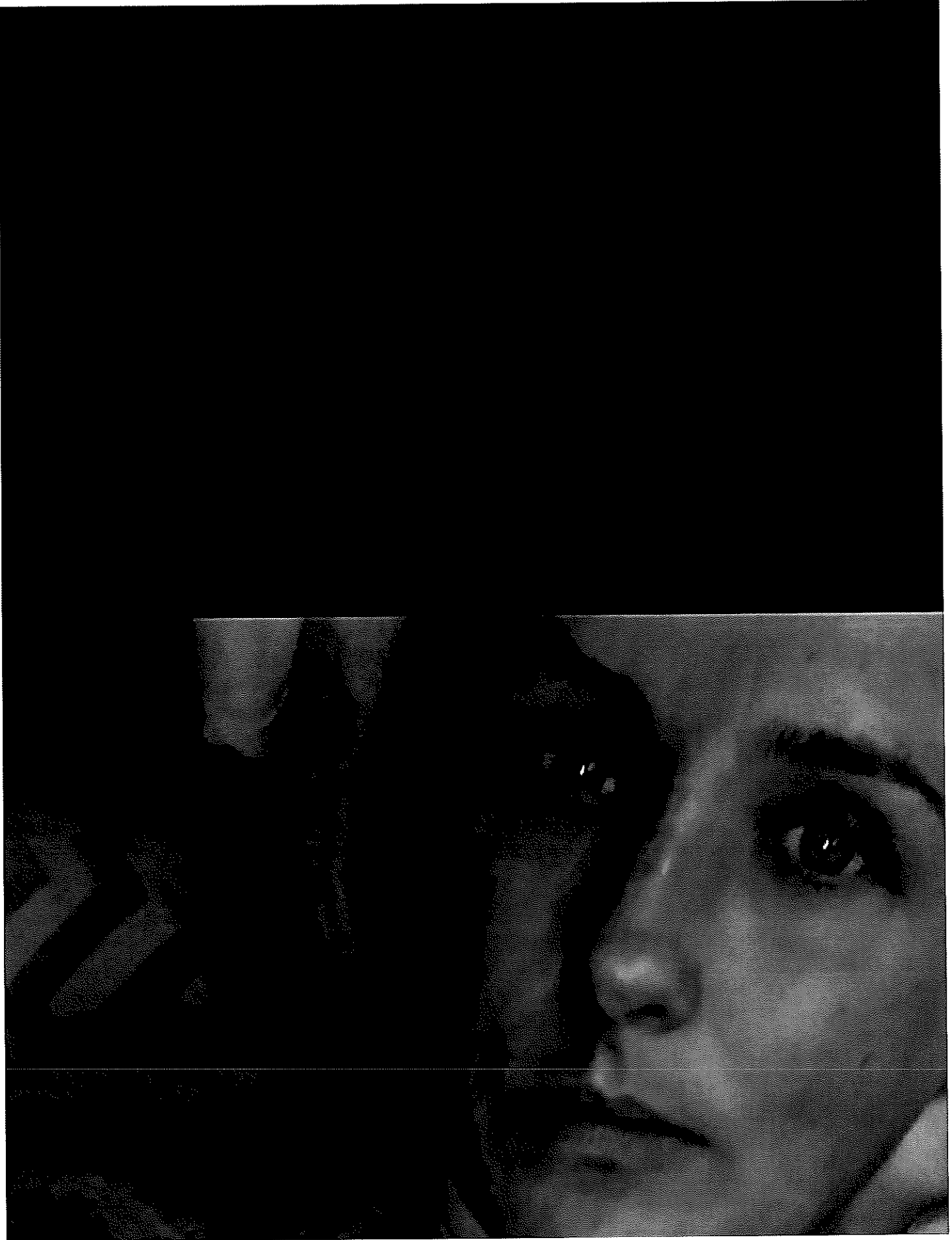
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**From:** Jeana Truckey <jeanatruckey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 7:16 PM  
**To:** Debbie Miller; Dianne Scheib-Snider; Patricia Walls; Paul Gambka; Glen Noble  
**Subject:** Re: Thank you for taking the time to read my letter



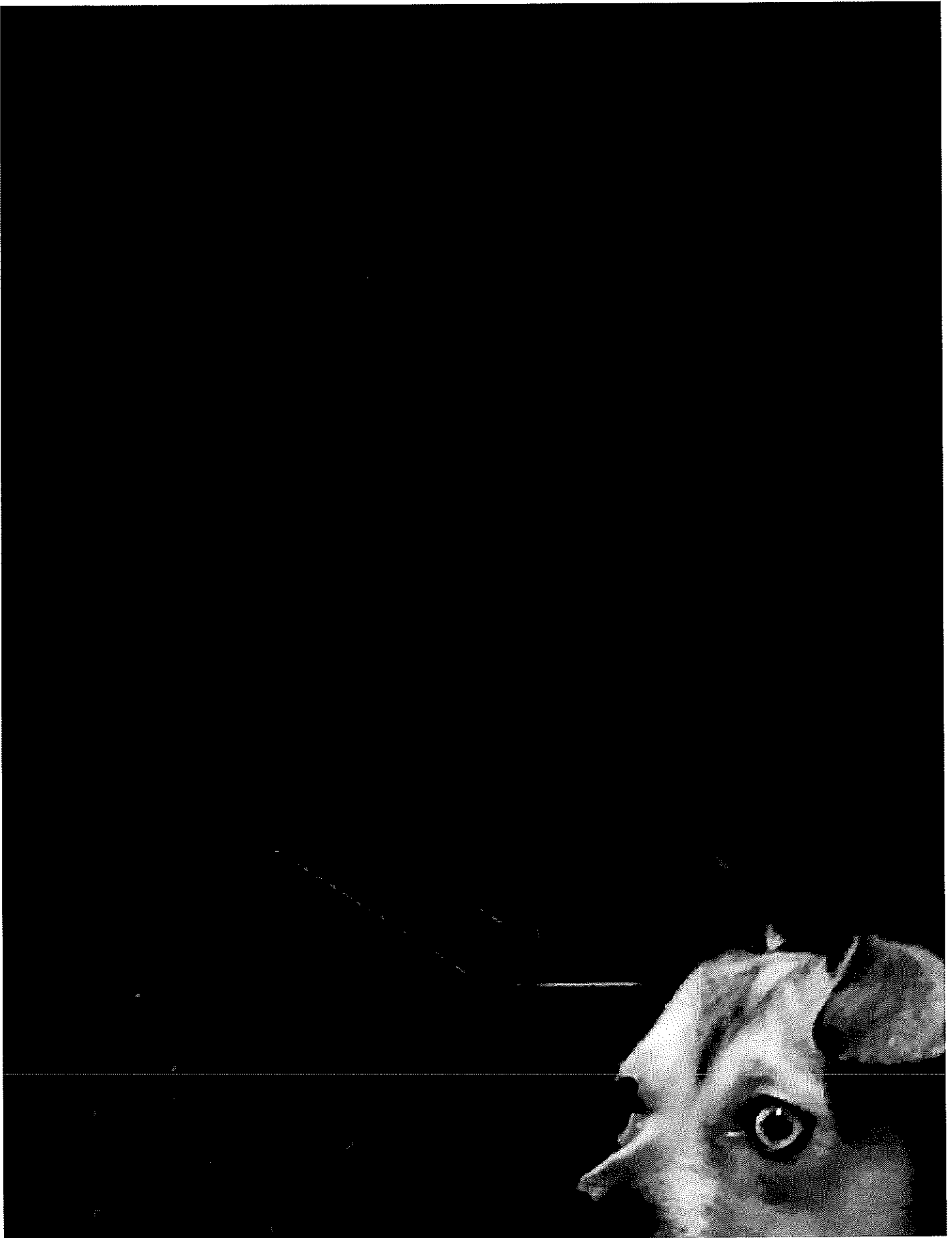


Here is Rosie enjoying life in the sun then her laying with my grandson . She thinks she has to take a nap with him also



Miss Rosie went from being scared to be touched to having to lay on top of me .





This is the first picture I took of her . She was scared and shivering really bad in this picture.

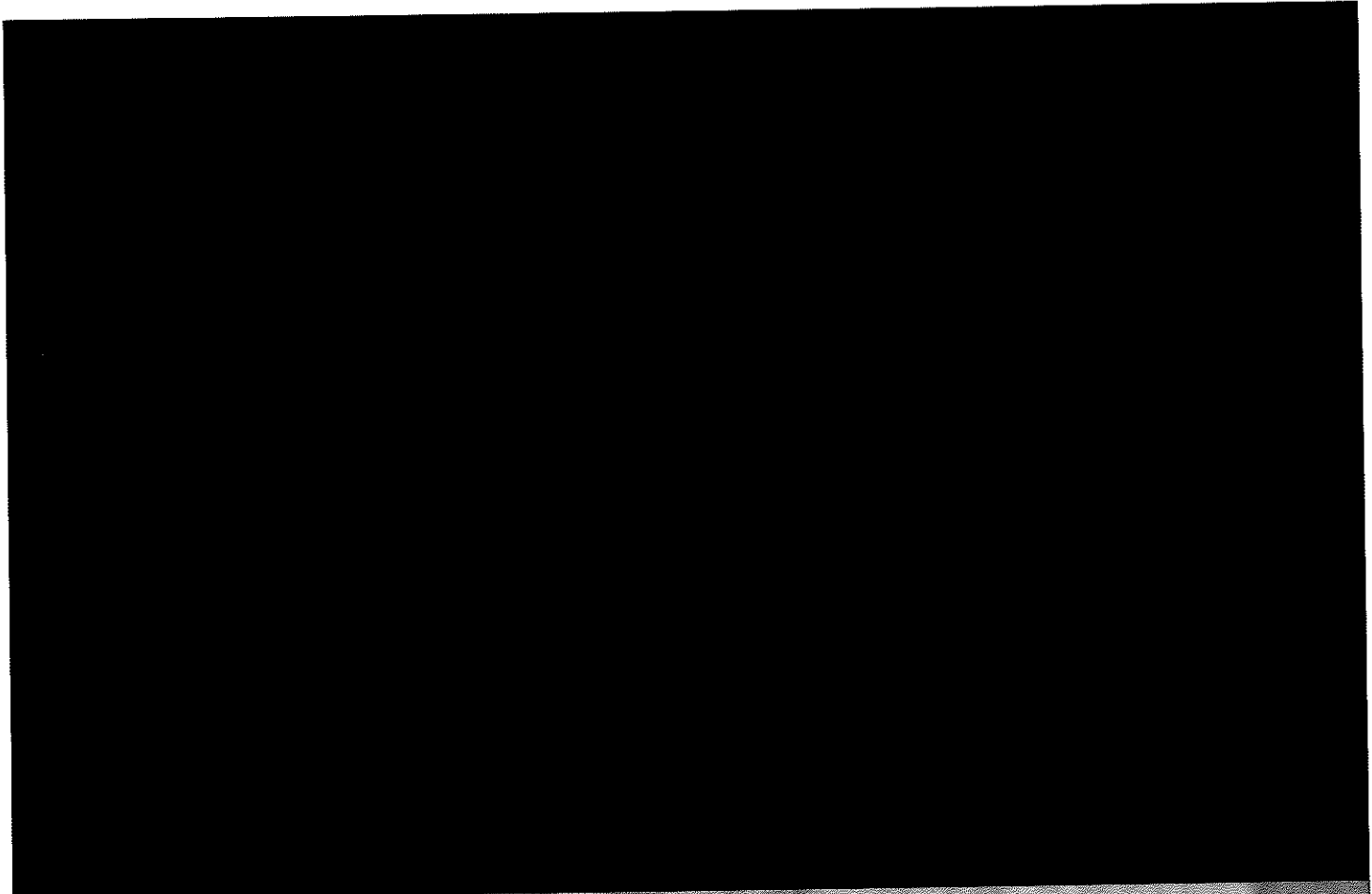
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Done

3 of 3



This is Lola . She has a cleft lip and had to be fed every 2 hours for weeks until she was old enough to eat on her own.



This is Joplin. Joplin should have only lived a week but with some great vet care she loved happily for almost 2 years .  
On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 6:38 PM Jeana Truckey <[jeanatruckey@gmail.com](mailto:jeanatruckey@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hello, my name is Jeana Truckey.

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I ask everyone on the board that is making the decision whether or not to take the dogs safe home from them to come to visit the Barn. Come see how happy they are and how much time and energy every single day the volunteers put into these dogs. We have to be the voice for these dogs because there are so many people who just don't care what happens to them. This whole situation has really affected my 12-year-old daughter. She isn't old enough to understand what is going on. She just knows that the dogs she has grown to love over the years may not have a home anymore. The Barn has a lot of pre-teen and teenagers who volunteer. They are struggling with possibly not being able to see the dogs and work with them anymore.

There are so many people and animals who will be hurt if we are unable to build a new building for the dogs. I hope you find it in your heart to allow the dogs to stay on the property.

Thank you, Jeana Truckey

## Debbie Miller

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**From:** Ellie Butkovich <ellie.butkovich@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 6:39 PM  
**To:** Debbie Miller  
**Subject:** The Devoted Barn

Hello, my name is Ellie Butkovich, I live less than a mile from the barn, and I am a senior at Holly High School. I began volunteering at The Devoted Barn last January and have spent upwards of 260 hours helping with the dog program. As you may or may not know, there is no club at the high school that requires me to have anywhere near this amount of service hours, and I only have so many because I truly want what's best for these dogs.

As the President of the high school's National Honor Society chapter, I have been given the opportunity to introduce my peers to The Devoted Barn's dog program. The students and staff of Holly High School raised over 150 blankets for the barn's dogs and my very own Vice President and Secretary have come along with me to volunteer, on multiple occasions. I've even been reached out to by people in the club, asking how they could also get involved with the dog program. To say the absolute least, this program has been an amazing way to raise morale and get our community's youth involved.

In addition to my peers and I, my parents and their friends have done everything they can to support the barn, from participating in fundraisers to donating their stimulus checks- and the last thing any of them wanted to see happen was their taxes going towards suing an organization they value so highly.

I recently applied to college, and one of the supplemental essays I had to write was in response to the prompt, "Whether big or small, mundane or spectacular, tell us about something that brings you joy." And here was my answer:

"Immediately after the door smacks the frame behind me, the room erupts in chaos. This chaos is the confirmation that all 40-some dogs are alive and well. As I venture further into the room, I see tails wagging and feet pittering. Those wagging tails and pittering feet belong to dogs that came from meat trades, hoarder homes, streets of Michigan, and all the other places where dogs do not belong.

At The Devoted Barn, there are dogs at vastly different stages of their journeys: from being untouchable to being adoptable. Although it is a tedious process, nothing is more rewarding than watching such innocent animals learn to trust again. I have helped dogs to take food from a hand for the first time, accept pets for the first time, allow a collar on them for the first time, and so many other significant milestones.

I remember the first dog to get adopted after I began volunteering at the sanctuary: Micah. Since then, I have watched as Phantom, Dree, Dora, Brownie, and King all found their forever homes. I get to assist in giving these dogs a second go at life, and in turn, they bring me the indescribable satisfaction of making the world a more loving place."

All of these dogs have already faced many misfortunes in their life, and now it's in the township's hands to decide whether they'd like to be the ones to add a tally.



## Debbie Miller

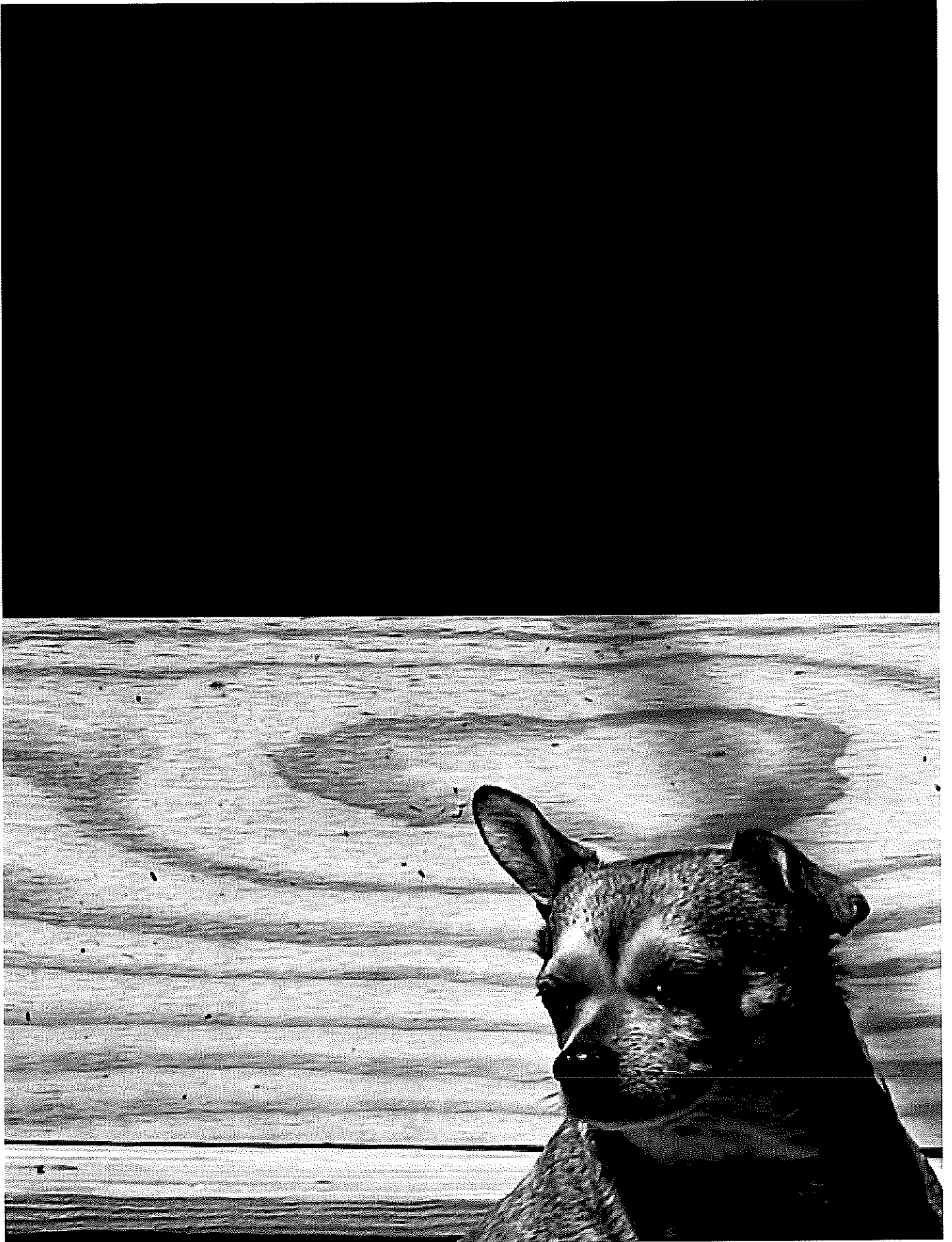
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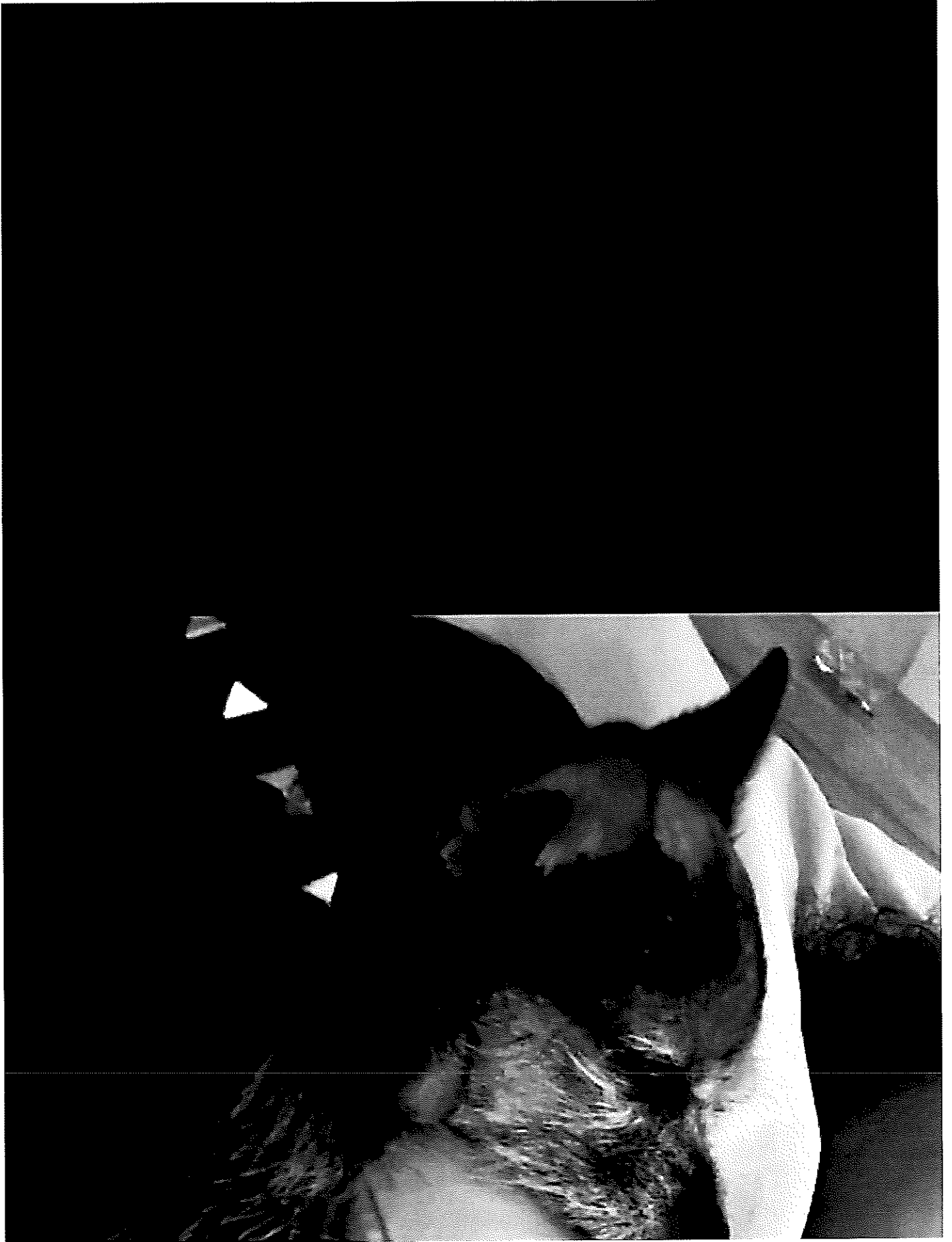
**From:** Jeana Truckey <jeanatruckey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 7:33 PM  
**To:** Debbie Miller; Dianne Scheib-Snider; Patricia Walls; Paul Gambka; Glen Noble  
**Subject:** Re: Thank you for taking the time to read my letter

Hello my name is Jaida Hutchison and I am 12 years old . I volunteer with my mother and have adopted from the devoted barn. just want to say how the barn effected my life. thanks to the barn I have my dog Rosie she was a Feral and apart of a hoarding case in California she came to us so scared of people and would not leave her crate. if she did it was to eat or to go to the bathroom. I was the first person for her to trust I would go down to see her every day and feed her Turkey I would put it on my knee and she would slowly take it . now she's a whole new dog I she will cuddle with you and she will come running for a treat . she loves to go outside and play in the snow and go on walks. I also had a dog joplin that came to us sick and half blind . she was supposed to live for a week and thanks to Melissa she got her to us in time to save her life . a year does not seem like a lot, but it is for a dog that's sick. she lived for over a year and then she got sick and we had to put her down, but she had an amazing last 2 years of her life . there's one dog at the barn that sticks out to me strawberry. Strawberry is a dog that has maga E and physical and neurological damage. she was beat as a puppy by her previous owner she is paralyzed in her backend . she loves to be read to and she love to watch tv . she's the sweetest dog ever the first thing I do is go to her when I get to the barn.the barn gave her a second chance . all of there animals got there second chance they deserve . I am really sad that I may not get to work with or see the dogs I've gotten to know over the year

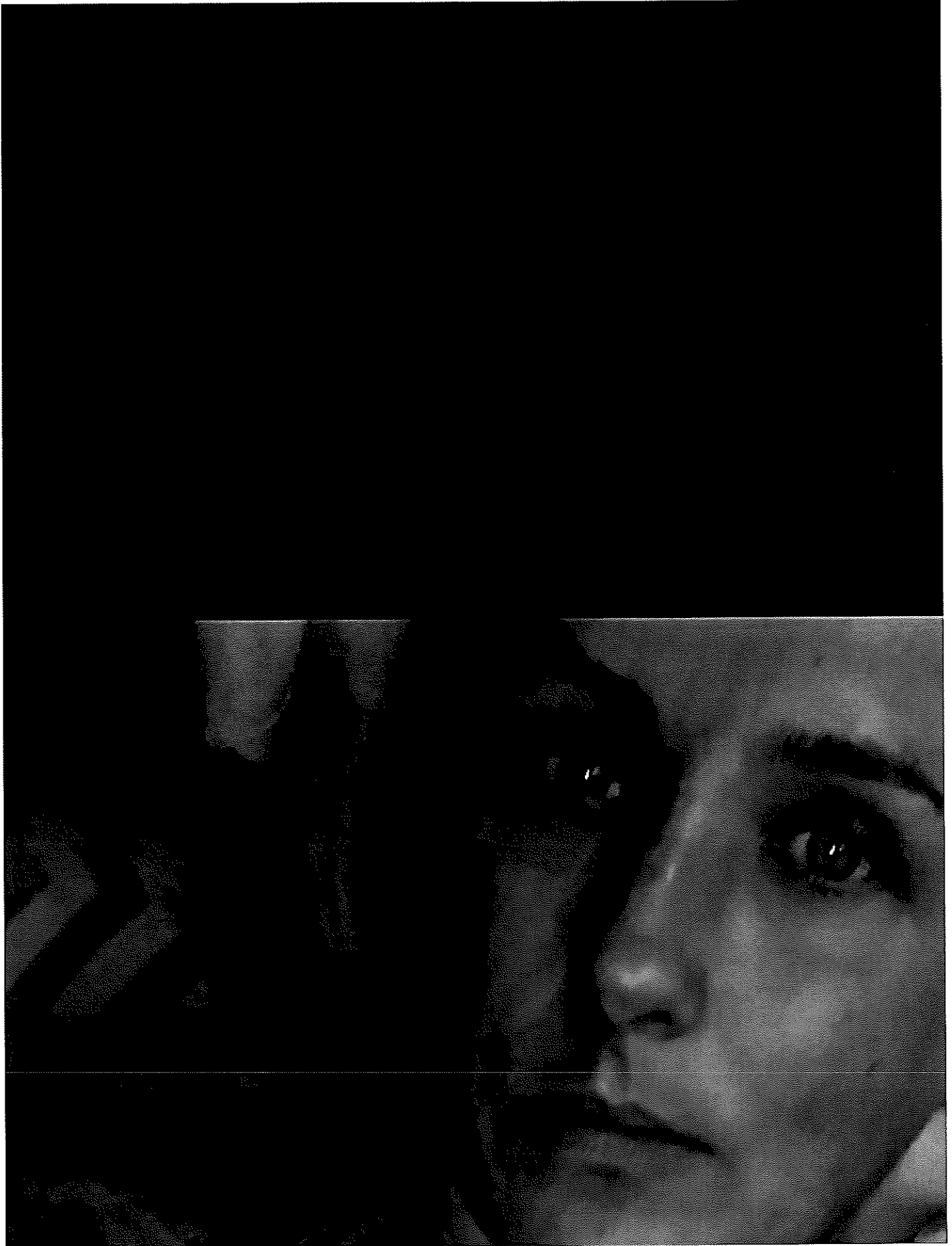
On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 7: just want to say how the barn effected my life thanks to the barn I have my dog Rosie she was a Feral apart of a hoarding case in California she came to us so scared of people would not leave her crate and if she did it was to eat or to go to the bathroom I was the first person for her to trust I would go down to see her every day and feed her Turkey I would put it on my knee she she would slowly take it and now she's a whole new dog she will cuddle with you she will come running for a treat she will go outside and play in the snow she will go on walks. I also had a dog joplin that came to us sick also half blind and def she was supposed to live for a week and thanks to Melissa she got her to us in time and a year does not seem like a lot but it is for a dog that's sick it is she lived for a year and then she got super bad and we had to put her down but there's one dog at the barn that sticks out to me strawberry. Strawberry is a dog that has maga E and physical and neurological damage she was beat as a puppy from her previous owner she is paralyzed wast down she loves to be read to and she love to watch tv she's the sweetest dog ever the first thing I do is go to her when I get to the barn.the barn gave her a second chance all of there animals got there second chance as they deserve. I am really sad I may not get to see and read to the dogs I've come to know over the years . I know the other kids at the barn feel that same . We would rather be at the barn hanging with the dogs and especially strawberry then to be playing with my friends . I usually just bring my friends with me so they can enjoy playing with the dogs and giving them treats . Lots of treats ! Please I beg you to keep the dogs at the barn . I means so much to me . I know I'm only 12 , but I understand it's not going to be good for the dogs to leave their only home they have felt kindness at. The dogs love us and we love them. Thank you for reading my letter .

<jeanatruckey@gmail.com> wrote:

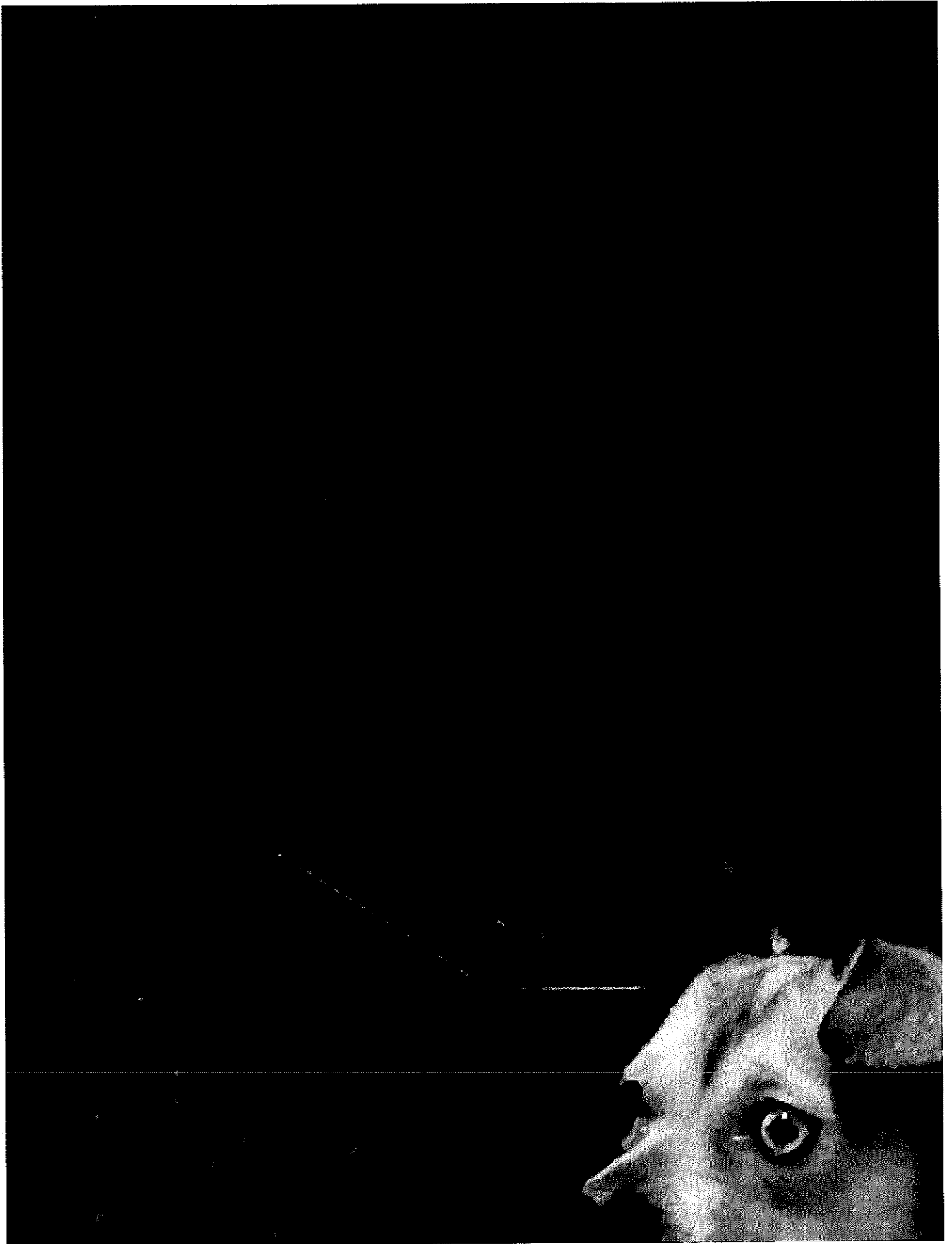




Here is Rosie enjoying life in the sun then her laying with my grandson . She thinks she has to take a nap with him also



Miss Rosie went from being scared to be touched to having to lay on top of me .



This is the first picture I took of her . She was scared and shivering really bad in this picture.



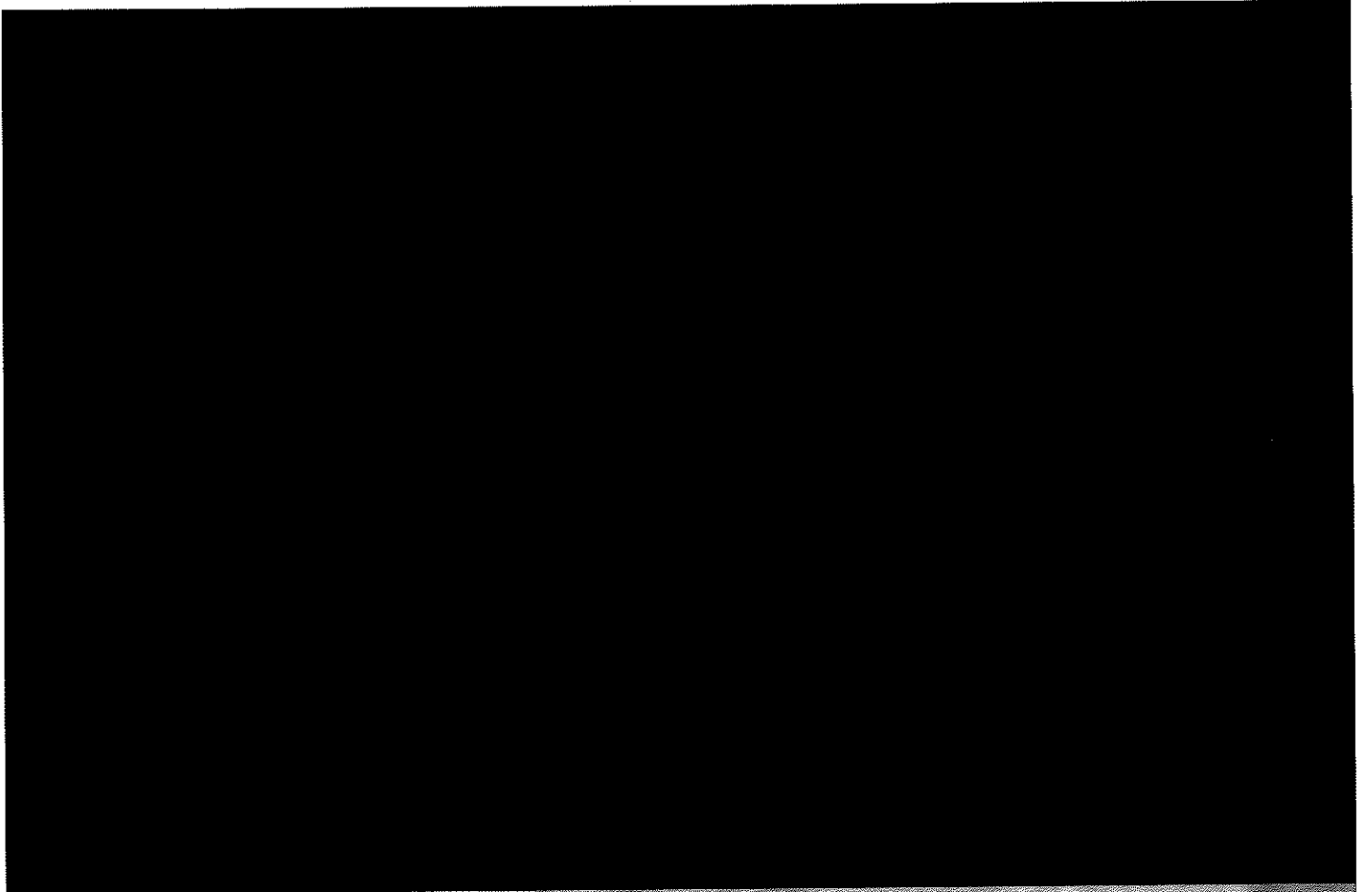
9:24 ↙

Done

3 of 3



This is Lola . She has a cleft lip and had to be fed every 2 hours for weeks until she was old enough to eat on her own.



This is Joplin. Joplin should have only lived a week but with some great vet care she loved happily for almost 2 years .

On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 6:38 PM Jeana Truckey <[jeanatruckey@gmail.com](mailto:jeanatruckey@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hello, my name is Jeana Truckey.

I am someone who volunteers and has adopted from The Devoted Barn over the past 6 years. I would like to tell you about 3 dogs I have fostered or adopted from The Devoted Barn.

First, there is Joplin. She was a very old girl dropped off at the shelter with a hunched back and could barely walk. Melissa pulled her knowing she wouldn't live long, but this girl didn't need to die in the shelter with no one around her she loved or loved her. I was asked if I would bring Joplin into my home for hospice care. After seeing the vet and being put on some medication Joplin felt like a whole new dog. She ended up living 2 years happy and healthy. If Melissa didn't feel compassion and pull sweet Joplin, she would have died in the animal shelter. She wouldn't have lived 2 more years and brought so much joy to my life. Joplin passed away in my arms peacefully knowing she was loved.

My second dog is Rosie. Rosie was living in the backyard with 161 other dogs in Tehachapi California. She lived in the back yard never feeling human touch. When the 161 dogs were rescued, Rosie and 2 other dogs were the worst of the worst. Someone in California reached out to The Devoted Barn asking if they could take the 3 small dogs. The Devoted Barn specializes in rehabilitating fearful feral dogs. The dogs were too small to be at the Barn, so Melissa Borden ask if I could take Rosie and work with her. Melissa taught me everything I needed to know to rehabilitate her. It took 6 months to get her where she was comfortable with us. Now Rosie is the sweetest love bug, She loves everyone! Out of all the dogs I've ever had, mine and Rosie's bond is unexplainable. I think it's because for a long time Rosie only looked to me to show her she is safe and human touch actually feels good. As I'm writing this Rosie is laying right next to me. If it wasn't for what The Devoted Barn does, Rosie would have been euthanized! I would never have her or our bond. Rosie was 3 when I got her and she has many more years left with us. It's sad to know that she could have been euthanized had someone in California had not advocated for her.

The 3rd dog I adopted from The Devoted Barn is Lola. Lola has a cleft lip. Lola's breeder called when she and 3 siblings were born with cleft lips and palates. They can not survive without being tube fed every 2 hours. Melissa and a few other volunteers took shifts in taking care of Lola and her siblings day and night. Lola is now 7 months old and she is the funniest puppy. She is 40 pounds and thinks she has to sleep on our head.

If it wasn't for Melissa Borden and The Devoted Barn I wouldn't have my sweet dogs. My dogs are just as important to me as my children. The dogs that are currently at the Barn were in the same situation as my babies. If it wasn't for the program at the Barn they likely would have been euthanized not knowing love or human touch. The dogs are very loved by all the volunteers. We have watched these dogs go from being scared and shaking hiding in the back of a kennel to asking for pets and loving to run around, play with toys, and simply be a dog for the first time in their life.

Removing these dogs will take away everything that makes them feel safe. They will revert back into the scared fearful dog again. Some of these took years to feel safe and could be adopted in the future. Taking them from their safe home will take away all the progress they have made. We have dogs that came from the meat trade. They were tortured alive because in that country they think it makes the meat better. The Barn is the only thing the dogs know that has ever been nice to them. We have a few meat trade dogs that are now adopted and living in a home. The end goal is to have all dogs in a home. However, if they never get to that point, they are loved and well taken care of.

I ask everyone on the board that is making the decision whether or not to take the dogs safe home from them to come to visit the Barn. Come see how happy they are and how much time and energy every single day the volunteers put into these dogs. We have to be the voice for these dogs because there are so many people who just don't care what happens to them. This whole situation has really affected my 12-year-old daughter. She isn't old enough to understand what is going on. She just knows that the dogs she has grown to love over the years may not have a home anymore. The Barn has a lot of pre-teen and teenagers who volunteer. They are struggling with possibly not being able to see the dogs and work with them anymore.

There are so many people and animals who will be hurt if we are unable to build a new building for the dogs. I hope you find it in your heart to allow the dogs to stay on the property.

Thank you, Jeana Truckey

## Debbie Miller

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**From:** Ann Garrison <mrstoy1960@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 8:32 PM  
**To:** Dianne Scheib-Snider; Debbie Miller; Paul Gambka  
**Subject:** The DevotedBarn

Rose Township Board,

My daughter is a volunteer at The Devoted Barn, so I have been following all of the events that have transpired quite closely.

It seems The Devoted Barn is attempting to bend over backwards to accommodate the City and I am very perplexed as to why the City would not prefer to come to a reasonable compromise & solution?

Miranda Lambert choosing The Devoted Barn as her dedicated animal charity for Michigan while on tour makes me believe it will be quite a sizable donation and will draw national attention to The Devoted Barn and the City & The Township. They will be collecting donations at the concert as well.

Additionally, they receive daily donations....I donate generously myself.

For the Love of Animals ,  
Ann Garrison

Sent from my iPhone

**Debbie Miller**

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**From:** Therese Babcock <tpotgal2@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 10:03 PM  
**To:** Debbie Miller  
**Subject:** Letter in Support of the devoted barn

February 7, 2022

Dear Board Member:

My name is Therese Babcock and I have been a volunteer with the Devoted Barn for almost 6 years. I am writing to you today to ask you to please consider the offer that the Devoted Barn has presented to you. We want nothing more than to work with the township towards an outcome that is beneficial to all.

I have worked with the dogs since becoming a volunteer with this organization and every day that I can spend there is definitely worth it. I love watching them open up, accept touch and finally play. Being able to be a part of their journey is amazing. I am truly hoping that an agreement can be made so that the dogs in our program do not have any set back in their progress. They have all come so far with the help of their trusted volunteers. I know that you must have heard from so many people and so many different opinions. All I can ask is that you and the entire Board of Trustee's take into serious consideration the letters which have been sent.

I appreciate your time in reading this email and those of others who felt it was beneficial to express their feelings and thoughts.

Thank you,  
Therese Babcock  
Redford, MI 48323

**Debbie Miller**

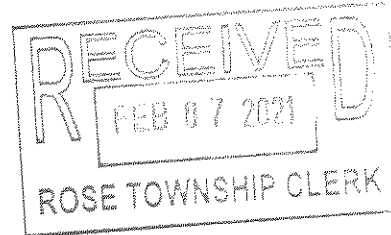
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*DO EA*

**To:** sherrie wulff  
**Subject:** RE: Devoted barn feral dog program

Ms. Wulff,  
Thank you for your letter and I see you have sent it to the entire board. ✓

*Debbie Miller, MMC, MiPMC II*  
*Rose Township Clerk*  
*9080 Mason Street*  
*Holly, MI 48442*  
*[clerk@rosetownship.com](mailto:clerk@rosetownship.com)*  
*Phone: (248) 634-8701*  
*Fax: (248) 634-6888*



**From:** sherrie wulff <swulff2001@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 6, 2022 2:08 PM  
**To:** Dianne Scheib-Snyder <Dianne@rosetownship.com>  
**Cc:** Paul Gambka <Treasurer@rosetownship.com>; trustee@rosetownship.com; Patricia Walls <pwalls@rosetownship.com>; Debbie Miller <Clerk@rosetownship.com>  
**Subject:** Devoted barn feral dog program

Hello, my name is Sherrie Wulff and I am writing this letter on behalf of The Devoted Barn. I am specifically referring to the feral dog program. I would like to thank you in advance for taking the time to read about my experience as a long time foster with TDB.

I have been a foster for TDB for going on 11 years now. When I applied to be A foster I thought it would consist of a little training such as sit, stay, shake, some potty training and that type of thing, then they would be ready for adoption, I could not have been more wrong! Each dog that enters the feral dog program is unique and has different needs based on the level of trauma each dog has had to endure. These dogs need to be rehabilitated at the pace the dog sets, not one we set. Some dogs take longer than others. I have learned a lot being a foster for feral dogs but I still have so much left to learn! What I have learned can be translated into helping my peers with questions they have about their own personal dogs. These people often come back and describe the success they had trying things the way I suggest they do. This is something I would not be able to do without the training I have received from TDB. The things I have learned about how to care for these dogs cannot compare to anything else I have ever done in my life. This is knowledge and experience I could not have gotten anywhere else.

Melissa and the other volunteers are always willing to help or offer advice at the drop of a hat putting their own personal lives on hold on a daily basis and multiple times each day. I have witnessed Melissa get countless sleepless nights because a dog born premature or with a cleft palate needs to be fed and monitored very closely 24/7. She does this selflessly to give these animals a fighting chance at a normal happy life.

In my almost 11 years as a foster I have seen some pretty severe abuse and neglect cases. One of my fosters, Samson, was part of a hoarding case. He was born with neurological issues which made it more difficult for him to walk, eat and drink. He was even raped by his owner multiple times. I fostered him until we found the perfect home for him. His neurological issues will never be cured but because of TDB he is living his best life with his human mom and 2 fur siblings. Samson has a wonderful disposition and is a very happy despite his challenges.

Tino, another foster I had was scared of everything, even walks. Every little noise and movement terrified him. Through the efforts of Melissa, other volunteers and a trainer that worked at the barn I was able to learn how to work with him and



he now lives with his adoptive family and even enjoys his walks! I got very attached to Tino but the experience I gained by fostering him really taught me a lot about how to handle situations when you have a dog that is afraid of everything.

These are just 2 examples of dogs I have fostered that would likely not even be alive right now if it weren't for Melissa developing the feral dog program. Most shelters don't have the volunteers, the resources or the time to devote to this type of rehabilitation

Overall this has been a very rewarding experience for myself but the dogs are the real winners as they are now able to live a long happy normal life which was made possible by the feral dog program at TDB.

Please accept an invitation to come out to TDB for a tour so you may see first hand how everything runs. I promise you it's an experience you won't soon forget! Thank you once again for your time.

Sincerely

Sherrie Wulff  
248-417-3006  
[swulff2001@yahoo.com](mailto:swulff2001@yahoo.com)

**Debbie Miller**

FULTA

**From:** sherrie wulff <swulff2001@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 6, 2022 2:08 PM  
**To:** Dianne Scheib-Snyder  
**Cc:** Paul Gambka; trustee@rosetownship.com; Patricia Walls; Debbie Miller  
**Subject:** Devoted barn feral dog program

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Please accept an invitation to come out to TDB for a tour so you may see first hand how everything runs. I promise you it's an experience you won't soon forget! Thank you once again for your time.

Sincerely

Sherrie Wulff  
248-417-3006  
swulff2001@yahoo.com

10DA

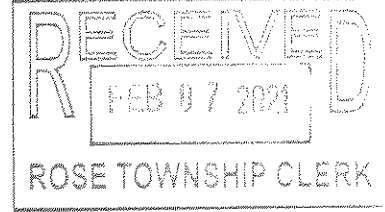
**Debbie Miller**

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**To:** Shannon Tindall  
**Subject:** RE: The Devoted Barn

Ms. Tindall,  
Thank you for your letter and I see you have sent it to the entire board.

Debbie Miller, MMC, MiPMC II  
Rose Township Clerk  
9080 Mason Street  
Holly, MI 48442  
clerk@rosetownship.com  
Phone: (248) 634-8701  
Fax: (248) 634-6888



-----Original Message-----

From: Shannon Tindall <boltandfoxy@icloud.com>  
Sent: Sunday, February 6, 2022 2:25 PM  
To: Dianne Scheib-Snider <Dianne@rosetownship.com>; Debbie Miller <Clerk@rosetownship.com>; Paul Gambka <Treasurer@rosetownship.com>; Glen Noble <trustee1@rosetownship.com>; Patricia Walls <pwalls@rosetownship.com>  
Subject: The Devoted Barn

Hello,  
I am Shannon Tindall and I am writing to implore you to please drop the lawsuit against the Devoted Barn. I've volunteered there for over a year and those animals are like family. I am there between 1-4 times a week along with my family and have never seen the animals neglected or poorly treated, but quite the opposite. The other volunteers & owner at the barn are devoted to the animals and always go above and beyond to care for the animals. These animals would be dead or in terrible conditions without the barn. This nonprofit has had a tremendous effect on my families life. It has taught my son how to care for animals that have been abused & how important it is to giveback, it has brung my entire family closer & helped us be grateful for this experience.  
I thank you for your time,  
Shannon Tindall

Sent from my iPhone

## Debbie Miller

---

**From:** Shannon Tindall <boltandfoxy@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 6, 2022 2:25 PM  
**To:** Dianne Scheib-Snider; Debbie Miller; Paul Gambka; Glen Noble; Patricia Walls  
**Subject:** The Devoted Barn

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I thank you for your time,  
Shannon Tindall

Sent from my iPhone

**Debbie Miller**

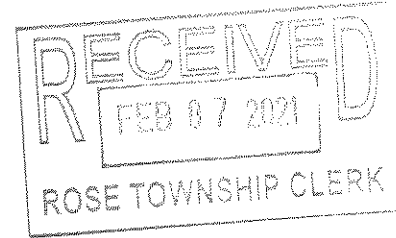
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**From:** Debbie Miller  
**Sent:** Monday, February 7, 2022 11:00 AM  
**To:** 'Kate Costello'  
**Subject:** RE: Letters regarding the Devoted Barn

FODA

Dear Mrs. Costello and Ashley,  
Thank you for your letter and I see you have sent this to the board.

*Debbie Miller, MMC, MiPMC II*  
*Rose Township Clerk*  
*9080 Mason Street*  
*Holly, MI 48442*  
*[clerk@rosetownship.com](mailto:clerk@rosetownship.com)*  
*Phone: (248) 634-8701*  
*Fax: (248) 634-6888*



**From:** Kate Costello <katecostello08@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 6, 2022 4:01 PM  
**To:** Dianne Scheib-Snider <Dianne@rosetownship.com>; Debbie Miller <Clerk@rosetownship.com>; Paul Gambka <Treasurer@rosetownship.com>; trustee1@rosetownship.co; Patricia Walls <pwalls@rosetownship.com>  
**Subject:** Letters regarding the Devoted Barn

Dear Board,

As I sit here and try to find the right words to describe all of my thoughts and feelings about the Devoted Barn and put them into this letter, I listen as my daughter is in the next room writing passionately about hers. I could go on and on and write a book with all of the stories of the good that the barn has done for these animals that we have grown to love and care for. I can't help but focus on all that the Devoted Barn has done for us as well. My 11 year old and I started volunteering two years ago, right before the pandemic. The amount that she has learned in the last two years about hard work, humanity and life in general has been indescribable. I don't know how I will ever be able to truly show my gratitude to the barn for this, but I will do everything I can to try. My daughter has learned how to sacrifice her time and give her efforts for the good of animals, when the only thank you they can give is their trust and love. She has learned how to have empathy for the ones that are disadvantaged, and will never lead a truly normal life. She has also learned the most difficult lesson of saying goodbye to the ones we love as they pass away due to old age, or because humans were once cruel to them beyond repair. She has come to understand that as her friend says, "we love them while we have them", we sometimes have to say goodbye far too soon. But along with that, she knows that we've all done everything in our power to show them love, compassion and understanding in the final chapter of their lives. The hardest part of all of this, is trying to explain to an 11 year old who has such a big heart, why anyone would want to fight against all of the good that is being done. That is a question I struggle to answer, as I try to help her continue to see the good in the world, when there is so much negativity and cruelty. She is part of the next generation that desperately needs more people with huge, passionate hearts like her own. I only hope that you can see this as well, and encourage our children, who are all watching, that there is still so much good to be found. I thank you for your time in reading my perspective, and I invite you to read my daughter's words below as well.

Sincerely,  
Kate Costello

Dear Board,

Hello my name is Ashley Costello and I help out at the Devoted Barn. I'm 11 and I work with the horses and dogs. I've seen some incredible things especially with the dogs. For example Prince. Prince came a while ago from the Thailand meat trade. He was rescued and came to the Devoted Barn. When he was first here you couldn't get anywhere near him, but now he will run UP to you for food and treats! He has made so much progress since coming here. The Devoted Barn has really changed my life too. There is a saying "act without expectation" and even though i don't have expectations this place is very rewarding. Seeing all the animals go off to new homes, like Tiny the horse that came with Gunner, she was at first untouchable and now she is being ridden! She found her person and her person found her heart horse. So did I I found my heart Pony Babes. Babes is blind and we have to trust each other. I also have a bond with so many dogs like Daddy who was found roaming around on a military base. He doesn't trust a lot of people but I'm one of the few people that he trusts. I also bond with Gypsy, Marley, Kylie and so many more with amazing stories that I could go on for pages about. I wish that the dogs could go to good homes and live their best lives when they are ready. I'm scared that the dogs will end up in a bad situation and make them lose their trust all over again. I love this farm, the animals and especially the dogs. Please drop this case because our dogs love the farm and they love where they are now :)

Sincerely,

Ashley Costello

P.S. Thank you for reading!

## Debbie Miller

---

**From:** Kate Costello <katecostello08@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 6, 2022 4:01 PM  
**To:** Dianne Scheib-Snider; Debbie Miller; Paul Gambka; trustee1@rosetownship.co; Patricia Walls  
**Subject:** Letters regarding the Devoted Barn

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Sincerely,  
Kate Costello

Dear Board,

Hello my name is Ashley Costello and I help out at the Devoted Barn. I'm 11 and I work with the horses and dogs. I've seen some incredible things especially with the dogs. For example Prince. Prince came a while ago from the Thailand meat trade. He was rescued and came to the Devoted Barn. When he was first here you couldn't get anywhere near him, but now he will run UP to you for food and treats! He has made so much progress since coming here. The Devoted Barn has really changed my life too. There is a saying "act without expectation" and even though i don't have expectations this place is very rewarding. Seeing all the animals go off to new homes, like Tiny the horse that came with Gunner, she was at first untouchable and now she is being ridden! She found her person and her person found her heart horse. So did I I found my heart Pony Babes. Babes is blind and we have to trust each other. I also have a bond with so many dogs like Daddy who was found roaming around on a military base. He doesn't trust a lot of people but I'm one of the few people that he trusts. I also bond with Gypsy, Marley, Kylie and so many more with amazing stories that I could go on for pages about. I wish that the dogs could go to good homes and live their best lives when they are ready. I'm scared that the dogs will end up in a bad situation and make them lose their trust all over again. I love this farm, the animals and especially the dogs. Please drop this case because our dogs love the farm and they love where they are now :)

Sincerely,  
Ashley Costello

P.S. Thank you for reading!



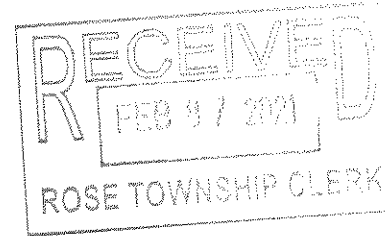
## Debbie Miller

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**To:** Nancy De Long  
**Subject:** RE: Support On Behalf of The Devoted Barn in Rose Township

Dear Ms. DeLong,  
Thank you for your letter. I see you have sent it to the entire board for review.

*Debbie Miller, MMC, MiPMC II*  
*Rose Township Clerk*  
*9080 Mason Street*  
*Holly, MI 48442*  
*[clerk@rosetownship.com](mailto:clerk@rosetownship.com)*  
*Phone: (248) 634-8701*  
*Fax: (248) 634-6888*



**From:** Nancy De Long <njld14@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 6, 2022 5:19 PM  
**To:** Dianne Scheib-Snyder <Dianne@rosetownship.com>; Debbie Miller <Clerk@rosetownship.com>; Paul Gambka <Treasurer@rosetownship.com>; Glen Noble <trustee1@rosetownship.com>; Patricia Walls <pwalls@rosetownship.com>  
**Cc:** Melissa Borden <melborden5@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Support On Behalf of The Devoted Barn in Rose Township

February 6, 2022

To the esteemed Rose Township Board Members:

I am writing on behalf of Melissa Borden and The Devoted Barn.

I have been following The Devoted Barn since January 2016, and have become close personal friends with Melissa and many of the volunteers over the last several years. Before Covid restricted travel, I would visit Melissa 2-3 times a year – taking whatever time I can away from my work here in California, because there are few other places I'd rather be. The barn has magic, calming quality that is hard to find in this day and age. The dog program drew me in and I've been amazed at the journey of many of these dogs - their rags to riches stories - overcoming the worst of humans - dogs beaten and left for dead, sexually abused, bait dogs, medical cases that need special handling, not to mention time and money. The Devoted Barn is home to all of these and more. I've been on rescue missions with her - both in Michigan and here in California. I've seen her gift with these dogs first-hand, up close and personal. It's like watching a uniquely choreographed ballet - and watching these dogs stop and give her a sign they might trust her - when no one else has been able to make a difference. What a gift, what an amazing, heartwarming gift. You have this gift right in your community and while the outside package may be brown paper, the inside is a priceless jewel.

I've co-written books on some of the barn animals in an effort to educate and spread her mission - "Teaching compassion through positive action." Let's get back to compassion and positive action on all fronts. Not hate and unfounded accusations.

When I look at everything going on in the world today, pandemics, hate, divisiveness, politics (regardless of party), hurricanes, earthquakes, wars, pending wars, homelessness, drug abuse and so many other tragedies befalling on the world, it's refreshing to see a small oasis in the town in Michigan that offers solace to both animals and humans alike. I've seen these animals come through the doors and do a complete 180 in temperament and behavior. Shut down animals who have never allowed human touch now cannot wait for human interaction. Dogs, once so fearful, now can be hand-fed and are learning to trust and how to interact with other dogs and learn how to be, just that, a dog. This is a beacon of light that lives in your township. One I would assume the township would be proud of and boast about. I respect all of you for wanting to be of service to your community, which is exactly what Melissa's goal is as well. I cannot fathom why you are all not working together, but fighting to the extent of spending 10's of 1000's of dollars that could be better spent in a myriad of more productive ways. Melissa is not perfect – and she has never claimed to be – but if any of you can claim that you have reached the peak of perfection in this lifetime, please stand up. I'll wait. And I'll be the first to pat you on the back and congratulate you for that achievement. Still waiting.....

Social media is a huge part of today's society. There are positives and negatives to this. The Devoted Barn has over 110,000 followers on its Facebook page. Somehow I don't believe that many people are there because they're haters or vengeful. People from all over the world follow the barn's activities daily. We get to know the animals up close and personal. We know their backstories. We celebrate the successes and mourn the losses – just as if they were our own pets. On any given day, Melissa will do live videos highlighting a part of the day at the barn to give her followers a closer glimpse of barn life. People live for these videos – I know I have often stopped what I'm doing at the drop of a hat, to view and participate. She's created a family of animals and humans, locally and internationally – which is a huge victory in today's chaotic world. There are no prejudices against breed, species, gender, among the animals OR the volunteers that dedicate their free time for the betterment of these animals. No one expects anything back – other than to see the animals thrive and blossom. Many of these animals have come from neglect and abuse situations and would otherwise be dead if Melissa had not stepped in. She's called upon by law enforcement, court judges, animal control, and other national and international rescue organizations, not only for her expertise but her compassion and ability to communicate silently with these animals. The trust they have in her is unlike anything I've ever seen. She has a gift – and one that serves the purpose of the greater good in this world, the state of Michigan, and most directly the township.

Melissa is the point of contact for animal cruelty cases for Oakland County. I have no doubt that they have done their vetting of Melissa and the property or they wouldn't have forged this relationship. That being established, it's no secret that AC officers must come out to the property often to examine and check on the animals in holding. If there were significant issues as what is being reported, do you really think they would continue to nurture this relationship? UDAG has been out to the property on numerous occasions based on frivolous complaints. Again, do you think they would turn and look the other way if all these accusations were valid? If so, there's a hell of a lot more corruption going on than anyone realizes. Because there's not. And you, as mature adults, know this.

Melissa is a rule follower, whether you believe this or not. Her weakness is that she is too trusting. She trusted the seller when she purchased the Holly property, only to find all the hidden issues after the sale had closed. She is fighting daily to make much-needed improvements to the property that was sorely neglected upon purchase, not to mention all the infractions that went unnoticed prior to the sale. Melissa did her due diligence with the township before she bought the property and believed she was following the rules, only to have a disgruntled person provision to change the rules on a whim and then penalizing her, even though she had the proof to answer to the allegations, but no one will listen or review the facts. How many times has she invited you all out to the barn – to drop in without notice – an open invitation – and yet no one has accepted that. What does that say about you and your scruples? You're so hell-bent on listening to some people who feel slighted and have time to speculate and draft up elaborate misguided stories without context or understanding. Why is there so much hate and why do you support that hate as much as it seems you do.

Melissa works with worldwide organizations and rescues across the country who turn to her for her expertise on feral and fearful dogs. She would not have this support if she were the horrible person she is being painted out to be. She has a gift and because of all this frivolous fodder, so many dogs are being left to suffer at the hands of the uneducated or shelters & rescues that are so overwhelmed with so many dogs. You can't tell me that you think it's okay for people to keep their dogs chained to a tree or dog house in the freezing and frigid temperatures – yet your target is Melissa and her dog program. I have been there, I have seen these dogs and the amazing volunteers first hand. These dogs are in the best possible circumstances they can be as they evolve into social dogs and eventually go to foster and then adoption. Yes, some dogs will never make that transition – and that's okay. Some people can't make a transition to be social or function, yet the social services system in this country is less than stellar. Let's turn some attention and focus on the situations that truly need people's attention.

The volunteers that work with these animals, especially the dogs are second to none. They spend hours upon hours working with these dogs. Some of them drive hours several times a week on behalf of these dogs. Do you think this is because they have absolutely nothing to do? They have families, jobs, yet this is their happy place – this is their reward in this life to be of service and to give back to animals who have been failed by humans at one point in their lives. Why are they being punished for being compassionate, empathetic, caring? And believe me, there is no "Kool-Aid" being served. The hypocrisy of this world is that people demand more of this – humanity, compassion, empathy – yet then target the very thing they claim they want because of whatever the reason.

Animals are not being abused or neglected and you know this. And you can confirm this in a heartbeat if you would accept the invitation to take a tour. What are you afraid of? Hell, I'll pay for your dry cleaning if you're afraid of getting your clothes dirty. The fact that you won't go see firsthand what you're fighting is incredulous. Again, what are you afraid of? That you'll agree with what so many supporters, government agencies, rescues, shelters, vets, have been reiterating for years. The Devoted Barn is a solid, stellar, integral part of the rescue world and you should be honored to have such an establishment in your community. Let's do a paradigm shift here please. Open your minds, leave the judgment at home and come tour the property. Meet the dogs, learn their stories. Support Melissa's plans to build a new dog room in the interior of the property. She's trying to do right by the township, by her volunteers, by her family, and by you – the township, who just seem to have an unfounded vendetta and are willing to spend thousands of dollars for no real good to anyone. Stubbornness has its place at times, this is not that time. Those stubborn donkeys actually are protectors – let's learn from them and protect The Devoted Barn.

The Devoted Barn is a beacon of light and hope in times of a world that's unstable whether by man's hand or nature. She deserves to be praised for her sacrifices, commitment, her dedication, and hard work to make the world a better place where and when she can. Isn't this what we all want at the end of the day? What we strive for? There's too much negativity in life, and we have the power – you have the power to take a stand against the hatred and strife that so many deal with day in and day out. I believe in your hearts, you know what is right, and that good and kindness will prevail. Let's all be part of the solution and not so much the problem. I beseech you to do the right thing.

Respectfully,

Nancy De Long  
Simi Valley, CA  
[NLJD14@gmail.com](mailto:NLJD14@gmail.com)

## Debbie Miller

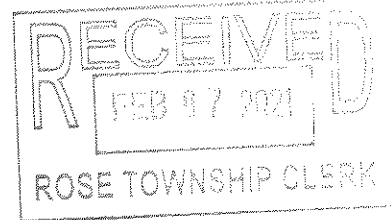
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**From:** Michelle Foster <mikkifoster@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 6, 2022 5:51 PM  
**To:** Dianne Scheib-Snider; Debbie Miller; Paul Gambka; Glen Noble; Patricia Walls  
**Subject:** The Devoted Barn

Rose Township Board of Trustees

9080 Mason Street

Holly, MI 48442



February 6, 2022

Re: The Devoted Barn

Dear Board of Trustees,

My name is Michelle Foster, and I have been a volunteer at The Devoted Barn for the past 5 years. I have spent countless hours working with the dogs and the horses, doing new volunteer orientations, fostering dogs, helping with and planning fundraising events, and doing other miscellaneous activities around both the Newport and Rose Township properties. I have put so much of myself, my time, and my money into this program over the past 5 years, and I would like to tell you a little bit about why.

The barn has been a haven not only for animals, but also for people for a long time. It is a place that volunteers can go and feel like they have made even a small contribution to the lives of the animals when nothing else in their world is working. It is a sanctuary in so many ways.

The dog program is what first pulled me in to volunteering with the barn. I would come home from my job and just watch the live videos of Melissa working with these fearful and feral dogs and teaching them that humans aren't so scary. Most of these dogs would have been euthanized in a regular shelter or animal control setting, as they were not ready for typical homes. At the barn though, they found a safe place to build relationships with people, where the dog dictates the timeline. It was incredible to watch and has been just as incredible to experience in person. Having a dog who was absolutely terrified of people start to wag his tail because he recognizes you as one of "his people" is an amazing feeling. Watching that dog start to trust you enough to pet him for the first time just fills your heart and lets you know that things in this crazy world might just be ok in the end.

Just today, I took my feral foster dog to her adoptive home. When she first came into my care, it took 3 months before she would let me even touch her. Last night and this morning, she was laying across my lap asking for belly rubs. Yes, it took a lot of time and effort and treats and reading her body language to determine when she was ready for more, but it was worth it as she is one of the many, many success stories to come out of The

Devoted Barn's dog program. While she was never a resident inside the barn dog room, the training I learned working with the dogs there allowed me the confidence and skills to bring Heidi home, and work with her until she was ready for her own adoptive home.

The Devoted Barn's volunteers are a group fully dedicated to the lives of these animals. All animals on the property are well fed, provided with clean water regularly, and given comfortable and clean places to live. Most importantly, the volunteers ensure the animals are incredibly well-loved, for however long we have them in our care. If you have not been out to visit the sanctuary, I invite you to please come and see the work being done. I give tours and teach new volunteer orientations regularly and will happily take you around the property myself.

I implore you to please allow us to continue the work being done with our dog program. As I stated, for most of these dogs, this is their chance to be loved and to learn to trust and love humans back. For the humans, it is a chance to make a difference in the lives of another creature, find some solace when needed and have some quality companionship at any time. It is a chance to add some kindness into a world so desperately in need of more of it.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would appreciate if this letter could be shared with all relevant parties.

Sincerely,

Michelle K. Foster

9605 Arden Street

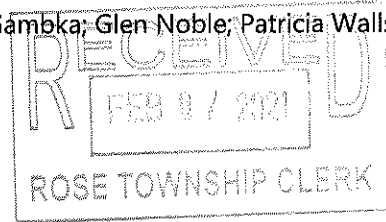
Livonia, MI 48150

mikkifoster@sbcglobal.net

## Debbie Miller

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**From:** Luv MyAppy <crashdummy04@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 6, 2022 7:35 PM  
**To:** Dianne Scheib-Snider; Debbie Miller; Paul Gambka; Glen Noble; Patricia Walls  
**Cc:** melborden5@gmail.com  
**Subject:** The Devoted Barn:



I am writing in favor of keeping The Devoted Barn feral dog project.

The past 8 months I have spent 12-14 hours a week tending to the care of the horses, livestock along with heading up projects like quotes on new fencing for the farm along with installation of new hydrants for water through out the farm. The barn family has welcomed me with open arms, no matter my abilities nor my commitment.

I love doing farm chores here, the animals always are fed a top quality feed along with their normal added diet additions like medication, pain management, prescriptions and so forth. Everyday is an adventure and a day to clear you mind because if you think of the situation's that most of these animals came from was horrifying to say the least they now can rest, never to wonder where their next meal will come from or what abuse they will have to endure. To watch these animal trust again, run and play, is the most rewarding part to witness. They get endless attention and love along with the normal exercise that is required to live a long happy life.

I have been present many of times as the barn veterinarians are out doing their normal assessments on the animals, changing medication, re assessing the progress that some of the animals require. Once a month the dog veterinarian who also attends to the cats and other special needs animals comes out and spends the day up dating, spay and neuter's, re assessing the special needs dogs where the foster family's bring their dogs and cats to the barn to receive much needed veterinary care. All of the adoptable dogs and cats are in foster care off site, the only dogs that remain in the care of volunteers are those in the feral dog program whom are housed at the barn.

Melissa's feral dog program is nothing like anyone else, and is the only one in the USA that has received numerous awards for her teaching, rescuing and publics awareness. This program has been put on hold ever since the lawsuits were presented, and I find it a shame that the teaching of empathy and compassion had to stop, when the torture, abuse and homelessness continues.

Every day I take in numerous packages from UPS, FED X, USPS and Donations that are brought to the barn by our school system and residences alike in support of The Devoted Barn. Truly an eye opening experience.

While barn chores are not everyone forte there is much more to The Devoted Barn family, I have never met such compassionate , knowledgeable, hard working individuals in such a volume. Everyone has a something to give and the animals at the barn all benefit from all of it. While under the devoted barns care, we do have criminal cases that come in regularly and the animal control officers always are so impressed with the accommodation's, the barn has to offer. I have been there for a couple of these visits, because if we were not able to provide what is required for each and every animal on the property they certainly would not contract to the barn to take in these animals under their control. Criminal cases as I have learned is a rather lengthy process, and I have been told that they cannot believe how great the animals they had dropped of look like now.

The devoted barn has so much to offer our community if it was able to do so. The Halloween and Christmas open house were enjoyed by not only the residences but we had family's from all over Michigan stop in and enjoy themselves.

Ending this letter, I will have to tell you all that those feral dogs deserve a chance to work through the program and not end their lives because of several peoples bias feelings. They deserve the chance. The Devoted Barn deserves the chance to prove to all of you that they are an asset to the community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jill A. Tiltman (Johe)

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

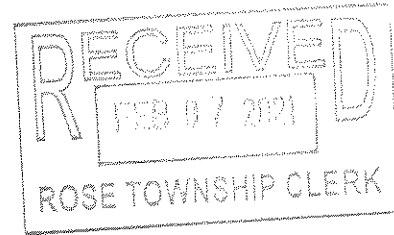
**Debbie Miller**

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**From:** Lynne Rebel <lynniereb@att.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 6, 2022 8:13 PM  
**To:** Debbie Miller  
**Subject:** Fwd: The Devoted Barn Lawsuit

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:



**From:** Lynne Rebel <lynniereb@att.net>  
**Date:** February 6, 2022 at 8:10:22 PM EST  
**To:** dianne@rosetownship.com  
**Subject:** The Devoted Barn Lawsuit

February 6, 2022

Rose Township Board of Trustees  
9080 Mason St  
Holly, Mi, 48842

Re: The Devoted Barn

Dear Board of Trustees,

I have been a volunteer/supporter of The Devoted Barn for seven years. Due to age and health concerns, I have been unable to physically volunteer as much since our move to Holly. BUT, I certainly have been present and have been involved in securing many needed donations for the animals and have provided in a big way financially. I am well aware of all happenings big and small.

NEVER in my seven years have I ever seen any animal...dog, cat, horse, sheep, goat, cow or other be mistreated. We try so very hard to see that every animal in our care get the proper vetting and attention. There is so much negative misinformation about The Devoted Barn...all from people who have never WALKED IN OUR SHOES. The dogs are very well cared for and each has their own igloo or raised dog bed for sleep...and they are provided with blankets or whatever works to keep them warm in the winter. The volunteers are so very dedicated to the dogs and work in two shifts daily to care for them doing whatever needed.

THIS IS LOVE AND DEDICATION! Dogs here are getting a second chance to have a life they so deserve and for people to doubt this...well...it's just not true and so disrespectful to these marvelous volunteers who give their everything day in and day out.

Please accept the offer made to you from The Devoted Barn...drop the lawsuit and let us continue with the mission of caring for the dogs who so desperately need us. Make it a point to come see for yourself! It takes time and lots of money to pay for things like fencing, roofing and major repairs. Both The Devoted Barn and Rose Township are incurring a great expense with the lawsuits. Money certainly that we could use to care for the animals or for major repairs. We are working diligently to make improvements in all areas. No, we are not perfect...no one or nothing is, but we have much love for the dogs and all the animals in our care....THEY NEED US.

Respectfully,  
Lynne K Rebel  
Dearborn, MI, 48124

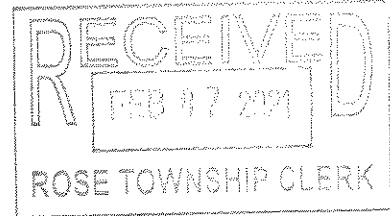
Sent from my iPad



**Debbie Miller**

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**From:** Kathy Bozek <Kathy@conservaelectric.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 6, 2022 8:35 PM  
**To:** Debbie Miller  
**Subject:** FW: The Devoted Barn Dog Program



**From:** Kathy Bozek  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 6, 2022 8:17 PM  
**To:** Diane@rosetownship.com  
**Cc:** melborden5@gmail.com  
**Subject:** The Devoted Barn Dog Program

Dear Diane,

My name is Kathy Bozek and have been a volunteer at The Devoted Barn for the past year in the dog program. I was referred by another rescue with nothing but praise-worthy comments that it was best dog program in the state. I didn't know what to expect but wanted to help in any way I could. First and foremost I was assigned a date for orientation for a mutual meeting with the dogs. Their mission and compassion for the dogs was explained thoroughly. I stood there watching volunteers with these dogs that have been in horrific situations being treated with love, compassion like they were their pet dogs at home. I was amazed how clean the kennels were kept and policy is twice daily (morning and evening) they are scrubbed, new linens, fresh water and given their meals and medications. During this time they have playtime for exercise and learning human touch is satisfying not to be afraid of. I noticed when it was time for the dogs to go back to their kennels they did not hesitate and realized it was the only home they ever knew. They feel so secure and safe which is something they never felt before.

It has been the most rewarding experience for me helping these beautiful dogs. The very first time one of the dogs accepted a piece of chicken from my hand feeling safe I absolutely knew I belonged at The Devoted Barn. It truly is a family of unlimited love and compassion!

I would like to invite you to come to the farm and see the magnificent work that is being done for the dogs.

Sincerely,

Kathy Bozek

## Debbie Miller

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**From:** Anonymous <TheTruthBeTold1@protonmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 3, 2022 3:26 PM  
**To:** Debbie Miller; Dianne Scheib-Snider  
**Subject:** Leaked Email

Ms. Scheib-Snider,

I am directing this email to you to lay out a disturbing practice that is going on within your board.

On January 15, 2022 at 1:07pm I emailed your clerk Ms. Miller asking her to distribute my email to the board for consideration on the Melissa Borden/Devoted Barn issue coming before the Township.

I never received a reply of receipt from her, nor a reply at all. So, on January 16, 2022 at 11:07 am I emailed you directly asking you to please distribute my letter to the board for consideration. Within an hour you emailed me back that you received my letter and would share it with the board.

I am in receipt of the Township packet for the February 9, 2022 board meeting. I was in utter shock to read a letter dated January 26, 2022 at 3:27 pm where Ms. Rhonda Gelstein sent an email where she states and I quote "I was made aware of an anonymous letter sent to the board and I wanted to raise my voice in rebuttal". Can you or your clerk explain to me how Ms. Gelstein was able to secure a copy of my letter that was not made available to the public and specifically Devoted Barn supporters or Melissa Borden??

What kind of ethics is going on that someone internally (and I can pretty much guarantee I know who leaked my email) in the Township leaked my letter?? I had been made aware that my letter was traveling amongst volunteers at Devoted Barn, but because I wanted to believe in the standard of government officials I kept my opinion to myself. This letter from Ms. Gelstein in black and white proves that my letter was provided to the very group that it was in reference to prior to when it legally should have been.

I am asking you to conduct an internal investigation into this matter. My letter was only provided to two people and yet it ends up making itself into the hands of the defendant in your case and her supporters. Absolutely reprehensible and unacceptable.

I am looking into what I can legally do beyond this email because I have no tolerance for backroom politics. Ms. Scheib-Snider you have a deceitful mole in your midst and I suggest you find out who it is and censure her immediately.

Ms. Gelstein was so bold as to say that "unlike the anonymous letter-writer, I am happy to put my name to my correspondence" perhaps she would like to be put under oath and asked who provided her the letter that was only provided to this board??

To the mole and Ms. Gelstein I did sign my name it is Dean, only the To: line read Anonymous. Perhaps people need a lesson in reading, what it means to serve in government and the definition of a Cult.

Respectfully,

Dean

Sent from ProtonMail mobile