

For Owner and Dog A Second Chance

Foster Parent Plans Poker Run for Animal Rescue

By Shannon Mason Brock
Staff Writer

Holly's Place specializes in giving dogs and cats second chances, but the animal rescue also did the same for Cathy Miller.

Last Christmas, Miller's dog, Colby, just "woke up sick," she said. So sick, that Miller, who lives in Lawrenceburg, knew she needed to get him to an emergency clinic in Lexington.

"I didn't get Colby to Lexington in time, and he died in my arms on the way," she said. "I had so much guilt."

Miller felt like she let Colby down and that she should have been able to do more for him, she said.

"I finally realized that even though I couldn't help Colby, I could maybe help some other animal," she said.

Miller had seen Holly's Place on the Internet, so she got online and filled out an application to become a "foster mom."

After a while, Holly's Place matched Miller up with Maggie, a Rottweiler mix.

"(Maggie's) family had come upon hard times and had to move into a place that didn't take animals," Miller said.

Maggie's time was almost up at the animal shelter, but before she was put to sleep, Victoria King, president of Holly's Place, agreed to find her a foster home.

"When I got her home, she ran for two hours," Miller said. "She enjoyed the freedom."

Maggie got along with Miller's other pets and socialized especially well with young children, Miller said.

"I just couldn't imagine having such a smart and loving dog put to sleep," Miller said. "She has so much to give, and knowing that her life was so close to ending made me feel so good that I helped save her."

But the rough road wasn't over for Maggie.

Miller noticed a knot that appeared on the side of the dog's face. After a couple tries, it was finally diagnosed as cancer. The tumor was removed, and in mid-August, Maggie was cancer-free.

"The vet said that if Maggie could stay cancer-free for the next four to five months, she would have a good chance that the cancer would not return.

"Maggie's life has been spared two times because of Holly's Place."

While a pet is fostered, Holly's Place pays for all of the medical bills. The only cost a foster parent has is for food and, with cats, litter.

Because of what Holly's Place did for Maggie — and for Miller — Miller decided to help organize a poker run to benefit the animal rescue.

The poker run is this Saturday, Sept. 13. Registration begins at 10 a.m. at The Landing, and the ride starts at 11:30.

The entry fee is \$10 per bike with extra cards for an additional rider available for \$5. The entry fee includes one poker hand.

King, the organization's president, said the poker run is one of probably three main fundraisers Holly's Place will have this year.

"We hope to have a good turnout," King said.

Holly's Place is an incorporated, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, and receives no government support, King said.

"The only way (we) operate is through donations and fundraisers," she said.



Miller wanted to help raise money for Holly's Place and to raise awareness for the need of animal foster parents in Anderson County.

"Foster homes are desperately needed," Miller said.

Those interested in becoming foster parents can fill out a foster application online at www.hollys.org.

Being a foster parent is well worth it, Miller said.

"You can see in their eyes how grateful they are," she said.

As for Maggie, she'll remain with Miller until someone adopts her.

"I'll probably end up adopting her," Miller said. "But I could let her go, if she has a connection with someone and I know she's going to a good home.

"Besides, that would mean I could help another animal."

About Holly's Place

Holly's Place Animal Rescue became an incorporated, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in 2002, said President Victoria King.

The organization receives no government support. "The only way (we) operate is through donations and fundraisers," King said. "Donations are tax deductible."

Holly's Place doesn't have a

central facility, but houses animals through foster care. "But we would like to have a facility in the near future," King said.

The animal rescue has foster parents in Lawrenceburg, but also in surrounding areas such as Lexington and Louisville, she said.

Holly's Place animals can be adopted through two ways. Interested parties either attend portable adoption events, which King organizes at large pet stores in Lexington, where foster parents bring in their animals or they contact King and set up a meeting with the foster parents.

The animals that Holly's Place takes in are usually the ones who have been at humane societies or shelters the longest, or the ones who are approaching euthanization, King said.

Holly's Place works with humane societies and shelters to prevent as many euthanizations as possible, she said.

Anyone interested in adopting, fostering or donating can visit www.hollys.org, contact King at 859-5342, or e-mail info@hollys.org.