

Our Angel Dog Stella

The Angel Dog place on our Christmas card last year was the beloved pet of one of our members that crossed the rainbow bridge. It was a story of love and dedication but one of loss. This year's Angel Dog will not be a story of loss, but a story of happiness and Family.

Upon moving to Ocean Isle Beach, a family reached out to Paws-Ability asking if we had a program they could make a difference with. Of course we did!! Paws-Ability Board of Directors had been watching pets surrendered by their owners out of love. Pets left at a shelter with broken hearts. Owners leaving the shelter, alone, with broken hearts, often being forced to leave behind their very reason for living. Pets were deserted in hopes that a rescue group would "give them a chance". Maybe a rescue group would help them with much needed medical care. Often this help was something as little as a dental to remove diseased teeth, insulin and needle for a daily diabetes injection. spay or neuter surgery or even something as little as upgraded food to manage skin allergies or medical treatment for a painful ear infection. Many owners simply did not have the funds to visit a vet but they loved their pet.

Wouldn't it be nice if an "Angel" could step in to help with something so small that would allow the beloved pet to remain with their Family? Wouldn't it be nice if a Family remained a Family? Instead of suffering in overcrowded shelters, the pet would remain with their Family, instead of being left at a crowded, noisy shelter where they went into deep depression, further destroying their health. Wouldn't it be nice if the human Family were not forced to abandon their pet, leaving in tears, but would continue to love them each day and remain their "FAMILY"? Wouldn't it be nice if children were taught a lesson in responsibility for the Family pet? Our rescue groups and shelters had the case studies. All we needed was to organize a program to help. It was a situation that broke the hearts of humans and animals each day. With a little help from an "ANGEL DOG", the situation became a win-win for everyone.

A family, new to Ocean Isle Beach, was to make an impact on a lot of hearts, both human and animal. This family wanted the program to be named after their beloved schnauzer, Stella. The program now has a benefactor and the program has a name – **STELLA'S VISION**.

Stella's Vision brings a smile to the faces of veterinarians, vet techs, shelter and rescue group managers, pet owners and to the faces of each pet that goes home with their Family! Stella is our Angel Dog!