



# Four Hearts Foundation Newsletter

This year has been a busy one for The Four Hearts Foundation!  
We have so many happy stories to share, this newsletter can  
hardly contain them!

## Gracie

This 3 year old Olde English Bulldogge found the love of her life with her new owner. Within minutes of meeting, the 65 lb. hardy pup turned into a "wiggle worm" and connected with her human companion immediately. This was a new experience for Gracie since she had been a breeding dog for most of her young life, and found a hard time warming up to people. In an effort to welcome her into a new and happier life, Gracie needed to be spayed, but the new owner couldn't quite afford the cost. Luckily, he had heard of The Four Hearts Foundation, and asked for our help. With her breeding days behind her, Gracie can now enjoy the comforts of a loving home and know how it feels to live like a dog should.



## Bella

This Rat Terrier was referred to us because her owner did not have enough funds available to spay her and take care

of her vaccinations. The Four Hearts Foundation gladly helped "fix" the situation and now Bella is a spayed, happy, and healthy puppy living the good life!

## Loki

This 1 year old Pitbull was referred to The Four Hearts



Foundation by a local vet's office. It turned out that Loki's previous owner had some problems, and was unable to continue caring for him. He contacted a friend who was willing to look after him until he got back on his feet. When Loki arrived at his new residence, his new owner noticed that

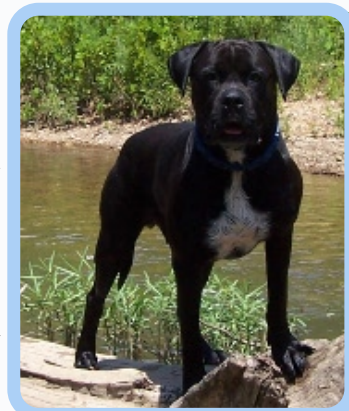
he was doing a lot of scratching and was losing some hair. Having a few dogs of her own, Loki's owner knew something wasn't right. The Four Hearts Foundation spoke with her and decided the best thing to do was get him into the vet and investigate the itch.

Apparently, Loki had gotten mange somewhere along his travels. Loki has since been dipped and treated for his ailment. He is now living an itch free life and hanging out with his new buddies!

more stories on next page!

## River

This 1 year-old Boxer/Lab mix was hit by a car and then ran away. He was lost until the next day when he finally came back home to a greatly relieved owner. He was immediately taken to the vet's office, and it was determined that he had an open and unstable fracture to his jaw and, due to the severity of his injuries, he needed to be seen by an oral surgeon. River's mom had spent nearly \$1,000.00 already, and was desperate not to lose him because of a lack of money. River was a part of the family, and she was going to do whatever it took to save him. She started the tedious task of finding a surgeon and a hospital that could take him, all while still having no idea how she would pay for everything. That's when we received an email from River's mom. The Four Hearts Foundation had been suggested to her from MVRC and she was told to give us a call to see if we could help. The Four Hearts Foundation was glad to assist, and things were starting to turn around for River. He was able to get into a hospital swiftly, and the surgeon was able to repair his jaw the same day. Even though the surgery was more extensive than they had originally thought, River came through with flying colors and is doing great! Now River is back home lounging around and being pampered by his mom. He will still need ongoing medical care for a nerve that had been severed, but the family is happy he is home safe and well.



## Thank You! Thank You!

### Donations (In Cash or In Kind)

- Carla Goacher
- Louise Hill
- Larry & Jan Lauer – In memory of Ray Moser
- Edwardsville Kennel Club
- Barbara Schlattweiler
- Carol Lesko – In memory of Simba
- Angela Schaefer
- Joseph Sanchez
- Kristen Auth

### Trivia Donations

- Kim Graham
- Dawn Cook
- Wendy Kricensky
- Naiomi O' Sullivan–Massage Professionals Ltd.
- Rhonda Respinto
- Effingers Garden Center
- Charmagne Higgins
- Gateway Grizzlies
- Gina Knuckles
- Dana Strunk
- The Prickett Family
- Stephanie Andrews
- Charlene Wolf
- Karyn Moser
- Cathy Moeller
- Mary Smith
- Laurie Eisenhauer

### What is canine influenza?

Canine influenza is a highly contagious viral disease of dogs that is caused by the H3N8 variant of the influenza virus. This virus was discovered in 2004 and is thought to have mutated from the equine influenza virus. The first case was diagnosed in a greyhound at a Florida track that was also used for horse racing.

### Can people get canine influenza?

No, only dogs can get canine influenza. Humans get other types of influenza, such as H1N1 ("swine" flu) and H5N1 ("avian" flu).

### Can dogs die from canine influenza?

Yes, but the fatality rate is low, generally anywhere from 5 to 8 percent. Most dogs who develop canine influenza get the mild form of the disease, which creates a soft, moist cough for 10 to 30 days, as well as a thick nasal discharge. The mild form of canine influenza can cause symptoms very similar to those of Bordetella bronchiseptica ("kennel cough") infection, and the disease process, like kennel cough, is self-limiting. The severe form of canine influenza causes dogs to become systemically ill; they may run a fever of 104 to 106 degrees, stop eating, and show signs of respiratory distress. Severely affected dogs may develop a secondary pneumonia. Because canine influenza is a newly emerging virus, the great majority of dogs have no immunity to it; fortunately, most dogs only develop the mild form of the disease.



### How widespread is the disease?

Fortunately, canine influenza has occurred in fairly isolated pockets in the United States; it was initially reported at greyhound tracks, and then identified in boarding kennels, pet stores, animal shelters, and veterinary clinics in 22 states. Canine influenza is considered endemic in only three areas: New York, southern Florida, and northern Colorado/southern Wyoming. The disease was reported in Chicago in 2008 but has not been reported in our area yet.

### What diagnostic tests are available to confirm canine influenza infection?

There are no rapid, in-house tests for canine influenza. A serologic test (blood test) can confirm the presence of antibodies to the virus, but sometimes a veterinarian must submit one sample when the animal is acutely ill, then a second sample two weeks later to compare and confirm infection. Often, clinical signs that develop in a dog that has been properly vaccinated for Bordetella are suggestive of the disease.



information continued on next page!

### How is canine influenza treated?

Canine influenza, like many viral diseases, is treated with supportive care. Treatment efforts are geared to maximize the dog's immune response so that the immune system will clear the virus more quickly. Antibiotic therapy with a broad-spectrum antimicrobial, fluid therapy to maintain hydration, and good nutrition are all used to help a canine patient recover from canine influenza more quickly.

### Is there a vaccine for canine influenza?

The FDA approved a vaccine for CIV in June 2009. The vaccine, manufactured by Schering-Plough, is given as two doses a month apart from each other, then boosted annually.

### How else can the spread of canine influenza be prevented?

Cages, bowls, and other surfaces can be disinfected with a 1:30 dilution of bleach or quaternary ammonium products such as Lifeguard or Roccal-D. Care should be taken by kennel and shelter workers to wash hands thoroughly after handling an animal, to refrain from letting dogs lick them, and to monitor dogs for any signs of respiratory illness. Sick animals should be isolated immediately, and a gown and gloves should be worn when handling sick animals.



### Should I worry if I have to kennel my dog?

Fortunately, since canine influenza has not been reported in our area, the likelihood of your dog contracting CIV while kenneled is very low. For dogs who compete in dog shows and agility/obedience competitions around the country, vaccination is a wise idea.

## Lasting Contributions

Do you love animals? Would you like to leave a lasting legacy? Please consider remembering The Four Hearts Foundation Inc., in your will. To do so, please contact your estate planner or tax professional to find out how you can make a difference. We know that pets are not just animals- they are our friends and family. Let's not forget them!



The Four Hearts Foundation was established in June, 2005 as a tribute to our canine and feline family members who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge.

In their memory, we work toward a better life and future for the homeless, abused, unwanted and unloved animals in the community. Our goal is to make a difference, even though it may be just one small heart at a time.



Tracy Eichholz, President  
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