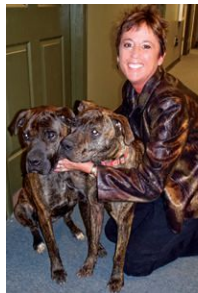


RESCUES FROM THE HEART

MORE STORIES FROM TEAM HEARTLAND

BY BRENDA FISHBAUGH

If you're experiencing déjà vu, yes, I've written about MO-based distribution company, Heartland Tanning, and their history of rescuing stray dogs (May, 2010). This fall, when



visiting Heartland's Atlanta facility, I was happy to see those two dogs are

happy and healthy! When I visited the Missouri office, I was met by a number of staffers who wanted me to know they had also rescued animals. It seems to be a company-wide policy! Here are a few stories of the "big hearts" on Team Heartland.



As 2010 was drawing to a close, Heartland Accounts Payable staffer, Sheila Malone, saw a dog wander out of

the cold and into the warehouse through an open shipping door. She didn't want the dog out in the bitter weather, so she fervently posted laminated "dog found" signs around

the neighborhood, called local vets and dog pounds, and even took the dog to a vet to be scanned for a locator microchip. Weeks went by, and "Roxie" was never claimed. Unfortunately, she wasn't in the best of health when Sheila found her; however, thanks to Sheila's big heart, Roxie now lives with her and has been nursed back to perfect health.

Several years ago, during a very bad ice storm, a Heartland employee found a tiny, black kitten buried under ice in the parking lot. The staff gathered around, and thought the baby was dead. Purchasing

Dept. staffer, Melody Elliott put a heating pad on the kitten and noticed it was alive. Mel rushed to the animal clinic with the homeless kitten. It weighed less than a pound, so the vet took the malnourished animal home with her, as it would die without constant care. The little kitty lived through the night, and Mel now had the responsibility of tending to the stray 24/7 to keep her alive. For the next two weeks, Mel held her on her lap with a heating pad, feeding her fluids and antibiotics with an eye dropper. I'm happy to report that "Lilly" now weighs 16 pounds and has no residual effects from her near death experience!

Yes, Mel is a soft touch. Abby Clemmer, also in Heartland's Purchasing Dept., was in Oklahoma in April of 2010, where a friend had rescued a two-year-old dog, but couldn't find a home for her. Unfortunately, Abby's friend's landlord didn't allow dogs, and the local pound said they would have to euthanize her in five days. Abby texted Mel over 50 times, saying she was bringing her the dog – to which Mel



texted back, "NO." Abby drove home from OK with "Lexy" and showed up with her at Mel's door! It was very easy to tell that poor Lexy had been beaten; she had lots of scars, was extremely thin and very timid. Abby was able to talk Mel into fostering Lexy; but, of course, Mel fell in love and hasn't given her up.

Even Heartland's Executive VP/General Manager, Brad Henson, has rescued pets living at his home. Last year, a friend's husband died and lost her home to foreclosure. Her little dog, Dee-Dee, had nowhere to live, until Brad and his wife, Stephanie, took her in. The Henson's second dog, Jackson,



was advertised in the newspaper by a local dog pound. Stephanie saw the photo and knew they needed to rescue the rambunctious German Shepherd/Airedale mix, who was on his third home because he had too much energy for his previous owners. Jackson's finally in his forever home!

From all of us animal lovers – thank you, Team Heartland, for your big hearts!

If you're a hero among us doing something selfless, email Brenda@EyePro.net. Your story may appear in a future issue of *IST*. ^{IST}



Tanning industry veteran Brenda Fishbaugh is president of Eye Pro, Inc., makers of disposable eyewear. She travels extensively training salons on the effects of UV light on vision.