

Spring 2016

The  
**VIRGINIA  
MARYLAND  
WASHINGTON DC**

# DOG

Volume 7 • Issue 1

**A Journey of  
Love Leads to  
a Destination  
of Love!**

**The Crate is Great!  
Heart Failure in Dogs**

*"Wesley"* is seeking a forever home. He is available for adoption through Ruff Ranch Sanctuary.

(details on Page 46)



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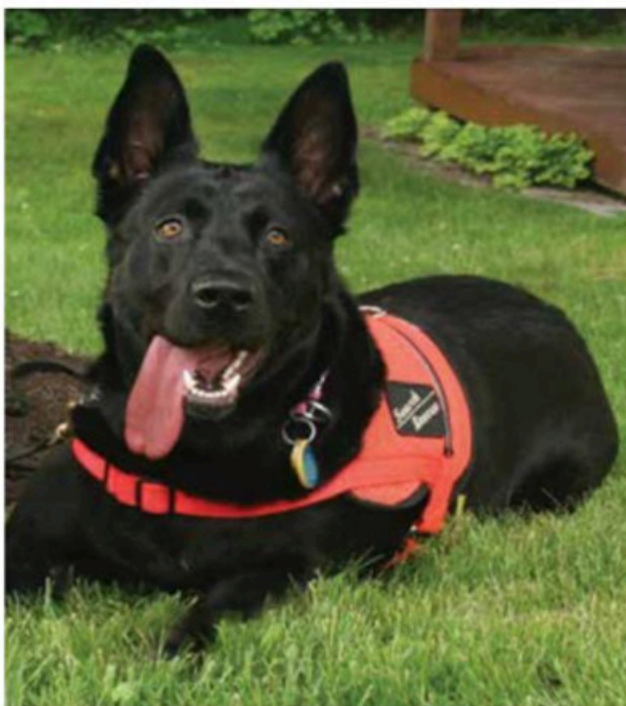
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{ publishers note }

# a note from our publisher

*"The one absolutely unselfish friend that man can have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous, is his dog." –George Graham*

In lieu of a Publisher's Note I wish to dedicate this edition of The Virginia-Maryland-Washington DC Dog to an amazing dog who rescued and consequently saved a significant amount of animals in her lifetime as a Search and Rescue Dog—"K9 Heidi." Heidi not only saved animals, but she saved the life of her owner, Anne Wills, whose story appeared in the Winter/Holiday edition of this publication.



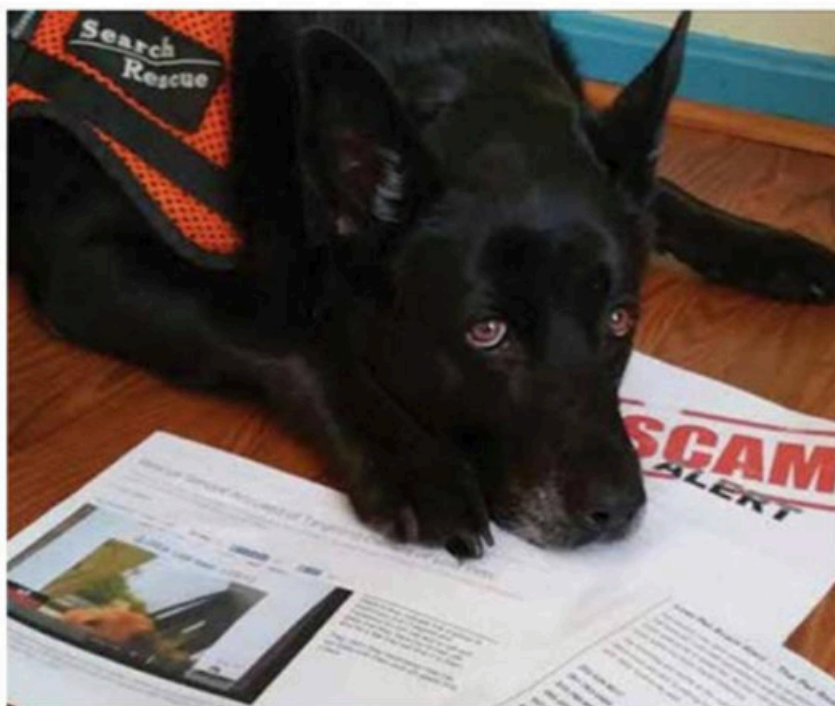
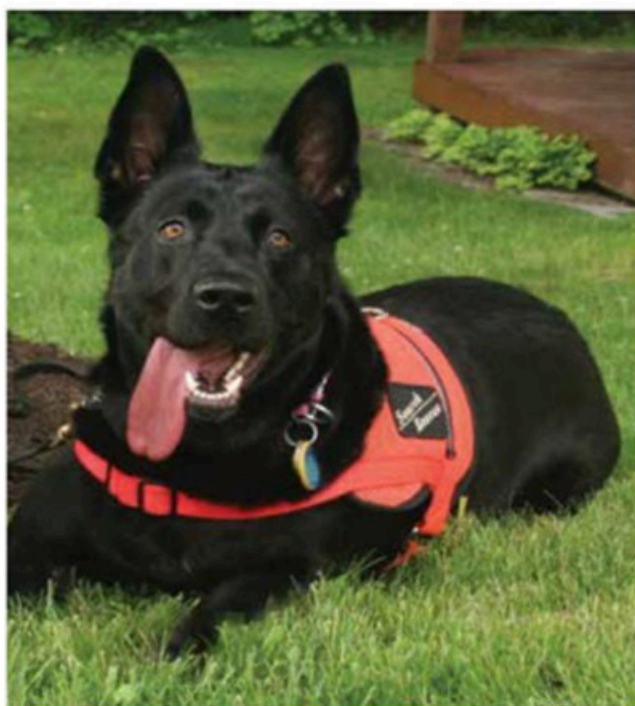
"K9 Heidi"  
10/10/05 – 12/24/15

**Pamela Wahl**  
**Publisher**  
**The Virginia-Maryland-Washington DC Dog Magazine**



# In Memory of Heidi

## Local search and rescue group launches two programs



By Anne Wills

*Photos courtesy of  
Anne Wills*

Heidi was the courageous, loving and hard-working founding dog of the local search and rescue group Dogs Finding Dogs, K9 Search and Rescue for Missing Pets, and during her too-brief career, she rescued about 2,000 missing pets. That's about half of the more than 4,000 missing pets that Dogs Finding Dogs, a registered 501c3 charity organization, has helped reunite with their owners since 2008.

Heidi, who had a beautiful as well as doggedly determined soul, worked almost daily for eight years. Her last rescue occurred in 2015, when she alerted her owner to cancer—thus saving her life, as well.

Alas, Heidi unfortunately passed away on Christmas Eve, 2015, from cancer, immediately after her owner had a clear medical scan. Hearts were broken. Heidi never showed any obvious signs of cancer—like always, she was selfless and only worried about her Mom.

From the sorrow of Heidi's death, two new dog-related programs have been created in Heidi's memory. K9 Heidi's Hero's Foundation—Heavenly Help is one program. The other program is Home by Phone Free National Consult Hotline for Missing Pets.

K9 Heidi's Hero's Foundation is charged with donating to families whose pets have just passed away, so the families can cremate their pets and bring them home. This was done for Heidi by a crematory, which was a touching gesture that took place on the day that she died. That was especially comforting for Heidi's owner.



{ Heidi loved all animals.  
She loved her work. }

The Hero's Foundation also plans to award a scholarship every year for training to dog that wants to become a search and rescue dog. Additionally, there is a special plush dog in Heidi's image, adorned with search vest and logo that the foundation plans to give to children in the hospital who are fighting cancer. The foundation has a children's book about Heidi that will also be available to everyone. Another project is having oxygen masks available for pets that can be bought and donated to local fire departments.

The Home by Phone Free National Consult Hotline for Missing Pets is a program in which advanced trackers working with Dogs Finding Dogs are expected to donate their time and expertise to help people get their pets back home safely. Full action plans are scheduled to be drawn up, with maps showing what to do and where; unlimited telephone support; referral to a legitimate tracking team; warnings about search and rescue scams; and the use of private detectives on the staff of Dogs Finding Dogs to aid in stolen pet cases.

The two new programs are scheduled to be advertised on social media websites. There is an already-established hotline that has already reunited pets and owners.

Heidi loved all animals. She loved her work. When she found a missing pet, she was overjoyed and would play with her ball and roll upside down on the ground as if to say, "Yeah, I did a good job!" With these new programs, she will surely look down and rejoice that because of her, she can still bring missing pets safely home. 🐾

{ For more information:  
DogsFindingDogs@gmail.com,  
and search for Dogs Finding Dogs  
on Facebook. All donations are  
tax deductible. }



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