

Rescue Me Media Kit

Contact Information, In the Press, Media Appearances, About Rescue Me, Links, 5 Star Review Excerpts, Introduction, Interview Topics and Questions, Photos, and Contact Information



Are you interested in booking Val Silver for an interview or event?

Val has been a guest on local TV and on several radio shows discussing *Rescue Me* and related topics. She is available for interviews, media appearances, presentations, and local fundraiser book signings. Interviews and appearances with other book contributors can also be arranged.



Contact Information:

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In the Press:

[Local Teacher Launches Rescue Me, a Book with a Mission](#)

Press Release: Val Silver announces her new book, *Rescue Me*, to raise awareness and funds for non-profit shelters and rescues caring for homeless dogs. *Rescue Me* shares twelve stories about thrown away dogs, the humans who saved them, and how together their lives were better.

November 28, 2013, Source: PR Web

[Val Silver on local TV News](#)

Interview starts at 1:48 - Val talks about writing *Rescue Me* with anchor Beth Hall and SPCA of Jefferson County director Doug Marlow.

December 30th, 2013, Source: 7 News and Fox 28

Media Appearances:

[Val on Pets Teach Us So Much Radio Show](#)

10 minute interview starts at 19:30. Our topic was *Rescue Me* and more.

May 22, 2014, Source: Pets Teach Us So Much Radio Show Episode 131, BlogTalkRadio

[Val on Pet Radio Show](#)

Interview starts at 50:20 - Val was interviewed about *Rescue Me*, and our mission to help homeless dogs by raising awareness and funds for shelters/rescues.

March 24th, 2014, Source: Pet Radio Show on BlogTalkRadio

[Val in Bellesprit Magazine](#)



Val was interviewed by Belle Salisbury, editor of Bellesprit Magazine, for a feature story about a holistic approach to wellness and Val's new book, *Rescue Me*.

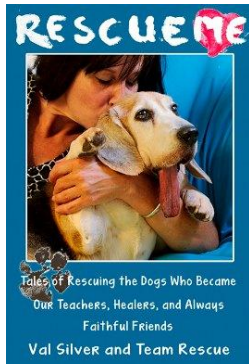
Cover photo of Val and Teddy

November, 2013

About Val Silver (bio):

Val Silver lives in northern New York with her husband and Bichon/Shi Tzu mix, Teddy. She is a lifelong animal lover and advocate with a heart for animals and humans in need of compassion and healing. She wrote *Rescue Me*, her first book, as a fundraiser for homeless dogs, to raise awareness of their plight and needs, and to show what wonderful companions these dogs make when given a chance. Val is a reading teacher, healer, and holistic wellness educator. She believes that it takes education, positive action and compassion to create better lives for all creatures-animal and human. Val shares her knowledge and insights on her websites and facebook pages, in on-line groups, in her monthly Bellesprit magazine column, and in the media.

About Rescue Me:



Rescue Me will touch your soul with twelve inspirational accounts of ten dog lovers who rescued the dogs who ultimately rescued them. Read (and listen to) true tales of extraordinary commitment, physical and emotional healing, faith in the midst of challenges, twists of fate, second chances, and the magical joy that comes from the bond of unconditional love and acceptance between humans and their dogs.

Meet:

- Julia, a woman on a mission to rescue as many dogs as she can, and how she found herself in the process.
- Biscuit, the injured, fear aggressive death row dog who was trained for a lifetime of service.
- Senior Sammy saved from a slow and certain death by his human angel, Letha, and how he put the smile back on her face, too.
- Yoda, the French bulldog who filled Faith's empty nest with his big personality and love.
- Our cover girl, Lolli the beagle, who lost her jawbone, but still lived a joyful life with her rescuer, Karal.
- Duke, the skinny, flea-bitten puppy Val's sons brought home in a newspaper sack.
- And more...

The dog adoption stories in *Rescue Me* are written for the love of dogs in rescue and shelters, and for the devoted people who save them in little and big ways. It is written to raise funds to help them, to raise sensitivity to their plight and their need, and to celebrate all they have to offer when given a chance.

Donations from *Rescue Me* royalties help shelters and rescues meet expenses and fund projects designed to make life better for the animals in their care. The accompanying webpage includes a list of sponsored organizations, home videos, photographs, bonus audio interviews with three of our authors, and more.

Rescue Me is available in kindle, paperback, and large print paperback formats.



Links:

- **Amazon** – see description, all reviews, book introduction, table of contents, and entire first story. <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00GLF5HQQ>
- **Facebook** – <https://www.facebook.com/rescuemetales>
- **Webpage** – <http://tapinfinity.com/rescue-me>
- **Rescue Me Book Trailer** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HksApqNrHlk> (book trailer is also embedded on facebook page, webpage and author page)
- **Val Silver's Author Page** – <amazon.com/author/valsilver>
- **Val Silver on Google+** - <https://google.com/+ValSilver>
- **Val Silver on LinkedIn** - <https://www.linkedin.com/profile/view?id=6642905>
- **Val's Holistic Healing Website** - <http://www.holistic-mindbody-healing.com>
- **Connect with Val** – <http://tapinfinity.com/connect> - find links to Val's websites, social media pages and a contact form)



5 star Review Excerpts:

>>> ...*Rescue Me: Tales of Rescuing the Dogs Who Became Our Teachers, Healers, and Always Faithful Friends* by Val Silver and Team Rescue is a little book full of heartfelt stories by people who found strength and solace in their do-over dog companions in troubled times. This easy-reading book was published to raise awareness and funds for an ever-growing network of volunteers who rescue, foster, and rehome dogs. The recurrent theme of the stories is that hard-to-place, physically or emotionally scarred critters often end up rescuing the humans who take them home! Val Silver writes, "Dogs are masters of creating emotionally safe spaces just by being themselves." The stories compiled in this book show just how important each dog became in the life of the adopter. The photographs, though much like a family photo album of black and white snapshots, add a depth to the stories by giving a face to dog and human. What you end up with are voices speaking for foster dogs who became family, and the lost who became found. If you want to learn more about what rescue groups do, or if you just want to read some short stories that inspire faith in humanity, this book is worth a look. The author has compiled some of the best quotes about dogs to introduce the stories... Reading this book made me appreciate the dedication that volunteers have for opening their hearts to give a cast-away dog a new life. ~[Martha Meacham for Story Circle Book Reviews](#)

>>>I have been involved in dog rescue and dog training for over 35 years. I fell in love with Rescue Me instantly, It is not only heartwarming, but it is a very needed reminder that there are incredible dogs out there that not only need saving, but can bring such joy, love, and healing to their new family.

~Jean Owen, NJ Fix My Dog

>>>Your wonderful book restores my faith in humanity and tells of the deepest bonds we have with our extended family members, our children... Beautiful refreshing book.

~Victoria Ansaldo, Rescue Networker

>>>Rescue Me is a collection of 13 very heartwarming stories about dogs being rescued from animal shelters. The stories are written by different authors and are first person accounts of actual adoptions. The stories are also very heart-wrenching. Like so many people, I was not well aware of the abuse and mistreatment that many animals face before ending up in an animal shelter. This book really exposes those problems...A common theme among the stories is that often the person rescuing the dog finds the favor returned. That is the rescuer becomes the rescued. Very often the benevolent patron has some deep and long held emotional scars. There seems to be some magic the rescued animal possesses that allows it to help heal the emotional scars. In some cases the rescuer was suffering serious illnesses. In other cases, the rescuer was dealing with deep emotional scars. The dogs were able to provide emotional support that was so necessary for the physical or emotional healing.

~John Chancellor Amazon Vine Reviewer

>>>I don't know about you, but I'm looking forward to the day when we humans realize "We all do better when ALL creatures do better". And "Rescue Me: Tales of Rescuing the Dogs Who Became Our Teachers, Healers and Always Faithful Friends" brings us closer to that day! Be ready for both tears and smiles as you read this book. It is filled with heart-warming and touching stories from folks who thought they were rescuing the dog, only to discover the dog they rescued actually had a special role to play in their life. The book invites people to look beyond our traditional view of humans rescuing animals and ask the question: "Why is this dog in my life now, what can I learn from him/her?" Because, you know what, rescue is always a two way street and we truly all do better when ALL creatures do better.

~Janet Roper, Animal Communicator, Host of Talk2theAnimalsRadio



Introduction: (please feel free to modify this)

Our guest is Val Silver, dog lover, animal advocate, and author of *Rescue Me: Tales of Rescuing the Dogs Who Became Our Teachers, Healers, and Always Faithful Friends*. Val has had dogs for much of her life. She grew up in a family that raised, trained and showed German Shepherds. As an adult she took a different turn, and began adopting dogs in need of homes, regardless of whether they were purebreds or mixed breeds. Val hails from northern New York, where she lives with her husband and Bichon/Shi Tzu mix, Teddy. In addition to her passion for animals, Val is reading teacher and a holistic wellness educator. She believes that it takes education, positive action and compassion to create healing and better lives for all creatures-animal and human. Welcome, Val.



Potential interview topics and presentations:

Val is prepared to talk about the following topics and answer the following questions. The included questions and topics are suggestions. You may suggest other topics and ask other questions in order to customize the interview or presentation to yourself and your audience.

>>**About *Rescue Me*** – a conversation about the book and our mission

- What inspired you to write *Rescue Me*?
- Who are the contributors? How did you connect with them?
- Does *Rescue Me* have a central message or underlying theme?
- What do you want people to get out of the book?
- What did you learn from writing this book?
- Who did you write *Rescue Me* for?
- Is this your first book?
- What is your book about?
- In your title you mention dogs as healers and teachers. Can you share a story of how one of your dogs taught you important life lesson or helped you heal?
- Which stories are about your dogs? Tell us about them!
- There are a lot of rescue books and articles being published. What makes *Rescue Me* different/special?
- *Rescue Me* includes quotes at the beginning and/or end of the stories. Some of them are quite touching and powerful. Which quotes most speak to you?

- Will there be another book?
- How can our listeners contact you?
- Where can people find your book?
- Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't discussed?
- How did you get involved with animal advocacy? Are you a rescuer?
- How do you decide which shelters/rescues receive funds?
- How can other shelters/rescues benefit from the book?

>>Advice for people considering pet adoption – 6 tips for people to consider and act on before adopting a pet, and for making the transition more positive for all involved.

- What personal considerations should people explore before adopting a pet? Or what pitfalls should people avoid when considering adopting a pet.
- Once you decide on the right type of pet for you, how can you find the right individual match for you and your family?
- What kind of adjustment should people expect once they get their new family member home?
- How can you make the transition positive for your cat/dog and the new guardian(s)?
- What can you do if your dog exhibits behavior problems?
- What kind of help is available for pet guardians in need of advice or assistance?

>>How to lend a hand to shelters/rescues and homeless pets - 10 ways people can make a positive impact and make life better for animals and their caregivers. Learn how to help in little and big ways; they are all important and they all count!"

- How did you get involved with animal advocacy? Are you a rescuer?
- Why is it important for people to get involved?
- What are some no cost, quick ways people can help?
- What can people do if they want to help out at local shelters?
- What do shelters/rescues need most?
- What are some of the shelters/rescuers major challenges?
- What is the difference between shelters and rescues?
- How can people find a shelter/rescue they can feel confident helping?
- What, in your opinion, do you feel are the two most important things that have to happen to solve the pet overpopulation problem?
- How can shelters/rescues benefit from *Rescue Me*?

>>**How Pets Enhance Our Lives** - 7 ways our furry family members benefit our health and our lives.

- How do pets benefit our physical health?
- How do pets benefit our mental/emotional health?
- In the title of your book you mention dogs as healers and teachers. Would you share a story of how one or two of your dogs taught you important life lessons or helped you heal?
- What are a few pitfalls people should avoid if they want to get a pet that will best enrich their lives? Or what are a few things people should consider if they want to get a pet that would best enrich their lives?
- What should people keep in mind/do if they want to maximize the benefit they get from their pets? Is it a one way street?

School Presentations:

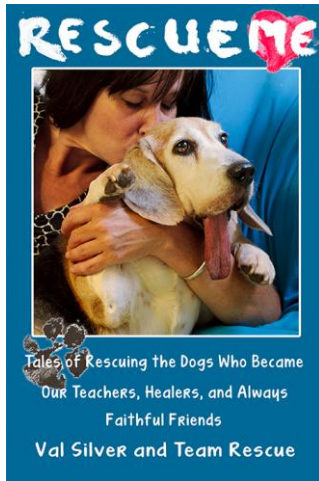


Val has been an educator for 25 years with experience as a primary school and middle school classroom teacher, and as a Reading Recovery/reading teacher. She has also conducted workshops for adults. Currently, Val is available to visit schools within a 90 mile radius of Watertown, NY to visit with 2nd graders and up. She will share “Biscuit the Do-Over Dog”, a story from *Rescue Me* which was also rewritten for pre-teens and younger. This short story briefly

discusses the plight of homeless dogs and demonstrates a dog rescue from beginning to end with a positive outcome. As part of this interactive presentation, Val will share power point slides, and discuss author’s purpose, why and how she wrote *Rescue Me*, and encourage responsible pet guardianship. Questions and discussion welcome.

Photos:

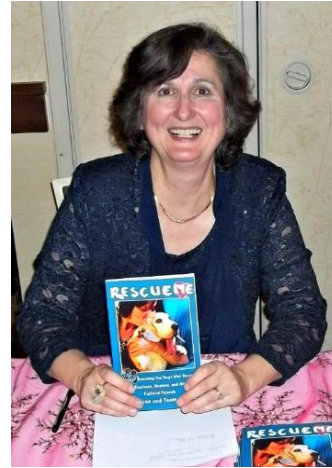
You are welcome to use the following photos as promotional material for Val Silver/Rescue Me, and to accompany our interviews, articles, and presentations. Other photos are available upon request. Click on the links to download.



[Rescue Me 469x705.jpeg](#)

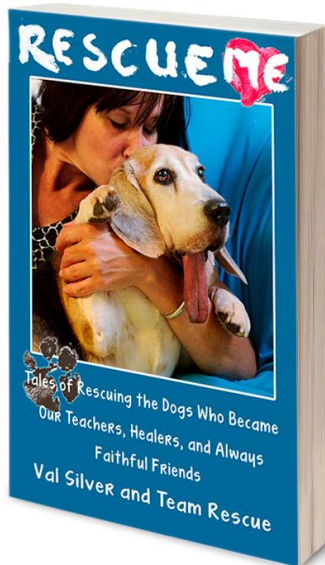
[Rescue Me 266x400 \(optimized\)](#)

(Karal Gregory and Lollipop on the cover.
Story- Lollipop Can't Hold Her Licker)



[Val Silver Rescue Me 359x500.jpeg](#)

(Val Silver at 2014 JCSPCA fundraiser)



[Rescue Me 3D 686x805 Hi-Res.jpeg](#)



[Val Silver and Teddy 362x500.jpeg](#)

(Teddy's story: From Foster to Forever)



Rescue Me Excerpts:

From Kindle Edition - copyright 2013, Introduction and The Puppy in a Newspaper Sack. You may quote a few sentences without permission as per 'fair use' guidelines.

Introduction

After losing my precious French bulldog, Louis, I found myself crying daily while perusing petfinder.com looking at dogs. So many filled the pages, and the needs of the organizations caring for them appeared overwhelming. I knew the gifts I made to the local shelter were valuable, but they seemed so small in the face of such great need. I kept thinking of the story of the boy saving dying starfish by throwing them back into the ocean, one at a time, as he walked along the beach. Even though there were so many, and he could only save a few, he did not give up. He knew his efforts mattered to the ones he saved.

So I prayed, "What can I do?"

The idea for this book came to me in a flash of inspiration; write about how we rescue dogs and how they rescue us and make our lives better in return; get other dog lovers to tell their stories, too; donate the profits to several organizations so they can worry less about money and focus on healing, saving, re-homing, and creating better conditions for the animals in their care. It sounded daunting, and yet I knew I could do it and had to do my part.

Let's be honest. People have created a big problem for companion animals, and it will take a concerted commitment by people to make it better. Until then, countless millions will continue to suffer. Pet overpopulation caused by over-breeding and refusing to spay and neuter has created a situation where there are simply not enough good homes for all the animals in need of them. Often, those who had families find themselves homeless by no fault of their own. Some are removed from neglectful, abusive owners. Others are abandoned after losing their puppy cuteness, or when they get too big or too old. Perhaps the novelty wears off or they get too expensive. Some get dumped when the family moves or a human baby comes along. Hunting dogs may be released at season's end. Puppy mill mommas are thrown away when they are no longer cash machines. Sometimes, caring owners are forced by circumstances beyond their control to tearfully surrender their beloved companions.

For all these reasons, homeless dogs need refuge. For some, a shelter is a welcomed change from foraging on the streets or being chained up, abused or neglected. More often they enter feeling scared, alone, confused and sad. Why did their family leave them? They wait hopefully in small kennels for their people to come back. They wait for someone to take them home and love them. Some wait months or years.

They may not know that they are the lucky ones. In some areas, dogs enter a shelter only to find themselves facing a horrific gas chamber death or a heart stopping injection within a matter of days or weeks—hardly enough time to even be adopted. Rescue workers work tirelessly to relocate and find homes for these dogs, but there are so many, too many. Of the six to eight million dogs and cats cared for by shelters every year, three to four million are euthanized because there is no room for them all. A quarter of them are purebreds. Countless more die abandoned or at the hands of their owners.

It is for those dogs and their rescuers that we wrote this book. Our goals are threefold: to raise funds for shelters/rescues dedicated to caring for homeless animals and finding them forever homes, to raise awareness of the needs and worthiness of homeless animals, and to encourage pet owners to be responsible, committed, loving caregivers to the pets who have so much to offer them when given the chance.

The twelve stories in this book are written by ordinary people with extraordinary hearts and touching tales of how rescued dogs became precious members of their families, and how they have become better, happier people for it. We hope your heart is touched by the spirits of these dogs just as ours are.

And to you who give of yourselves to provide refuge and support to animals in need, in big and small ways, we say...



Rosie (12), found in the middle of a street, and Bronson (6 1/2),
adopted from [Friends for Pets](#).

Rescued and loved by Skip and Jennifer Whiting,
owners of [Wise Tails Pet Boutique](#), Ojai, CA.

*Saving one dog may not change the world, but it will surely
change the world for that one dog.*

~Author Unknown

The Puppy in a Newspaper Sack

“Mom! Come here!”

I knew by the tone of their voices calling from the driveway that my two sons, Jim and Sean, were in possession of an animal they didn’t dare bring into the house. My only guess was what kind. And I confess my first impulse was to not even look, to just turn away.

We had already been through a long string of gerbils, hamsters and guinea pigs. Our recently adopted cat was the latest addition to the family. He finished off the last hamster and became my responsibility after the novelty of caring for him wore off.

I left the dirty dinner dishes and peered down the stairs through the open door to the driveway. “What is it?” I called back.

There they stood with their big tan newspaper sacks slung across their bodies. Paper route complete, the bags should have been empty. Sean reached into his sack and pulled out a little gray and black spotted puppy. One look at him confirmed the obvious. He wasn’t somebody’s puppy gone astray. He appeared to be around two months old and couldn’t have weighed five pounds. With hip bones already protruding, it was also certain that he wouldn’t survive much longer on his own.

“Bring him in, and give him a flea bath right away,” I commanded. I should have known better than to expect two inexperienced preteens to do a good job of it, but my attention was on kitchen cleanup after a long day at work, not on that poor little stray.

Sean was immediately taken with the wiry-haired puppy. “We aren’t keeping him,” I said. One look at his feet and coat told me he was going to grow up big and hairy. As a single working mother my plate was already full. “Tomorrow, I’m calling the SPCA.”

Despite how skinny he was, the puppy wouldn’t eat, and that had me worried. I knew in my gut something was wrong. Thoughts of possible dog diseases went through my head and I worried this rescue would not end well.

After the boys went to bed, Spots and I sat together on the floor. Thankfully, he nibbled a little boiled chicken from my hand while sitting in my lap. As we sat there, I reran the boys’ story in my head. They were walking down the street, finishing up their paper route when he started following them. They knew he needed help, so my youngest son, twelve year old Sean, scooped him up and put him in his sack. Even though I wasn’t thrilled to have a puppy around, I was very proud of my boys and touched by the compassion they showed.

I could only imagine what he went through. *Was he dumped? How did he feel being on the streets alone? Where was his mother and where would he find something to eat?*

The late September nights were getting cold, and a little pup like him didn't stand much of a chance on his own. But then, just when the situation was about to become hopeless, two lanky boys appeared and changed his destiny. They must have felt safe and friendly because he followed them. Maybe he had followed others, we don't know. This time though, it was different. These boys didn't turn away. They took him home.

As I rubbed under his chin, my intuition gnawed at me. Something just did not feel right. His skin felt *crusty*. I grabbed the cat's flea comb and ran it through his chest hairs. To my horror half the comb was filled with big brown clumps of flea dirt, blood and fleas.

"Get the flea soap." I yelled up the stairs, and into my nice clean sink he went. Hundreds of fleas washed away. I have never seen anything like it. No wonder he was so lethargic. He was already weak and hungry from lack of food. The fleas were taking what little life he had left.

Once he was free of fleas, we could only hope for the best. I went to bed, not knowing what morning would bring. I wanted to get down to him before the boys got up, just in case our intervention was too late. To my great relief, a wagging tail and a voracious appetite greeted me as I rounded the last few steps to the kitchen. Little Spots was a new dog.

After two weeks of loving him and trying to get him into the shelter, we all got attached to him. When there was finally an opening, the little boy pleas and tears easily won me over. I caved in on two conditions. Sean would be his primary caretaker, and he needed a new name.

Duke, the newspaper sack puppy, had found his forever home.

...

This story, however, isn't only about our compassion towards Duke. His compassion for others outweighed anything we ever did for him. He touched many with his kind, gentle, yet funny ways. As he grew older, people were especially drawn in by his eyes, and they would inevitably exclaim about what a wise old soul he appeared to be.

Until getting to know Duke, I had thought of compassion as primarily a human or divine trait. Sure I had heard stories of animal heroism, but this was different. Duke was kind in small ways. His kindness extended to us even during times we had been unworthy of it. One such recipient of his good nature was our incredibly selfish, full of himself French bulldog, Louis.

Lou joined our family when Duke was around four years old. I'll never forget the first time they met. Duke was outside when we pulled into the driveway with Lou. As soon as he saw us emerge together from the car, his happy demeanor changed. He began snorting and stomping around the yard as if to say, "*Are you KIDDING me?*" Being an exceptionally intelligent dog, he must have known what was coming. If I could read his mind, my guess would be that he was upset about another dog taking our attention.

...

Over time, our fur boys became best buddies; they enjoyed many hours of tug-o-war and long walks together. Lou loved Duke, but when it came to kindness, the street ran in only one direction. Still, Duke cared for the little boss, even when that care had been abused.



There were two occasions in particular when Duke completely awed us with his compassion towards Louis. While visiting family for the holidays, he played happily with the only available toy as Lou sat watching, quite bored and unhappy. After a few minutes, Duke walked over to Lou, and let one end of the dumbbell drop from his mouth. That they would share the toy had to be wishful thinking on his part. In typical fashion, Lou grabbed on, yanked the toy from Duke's mouth, and ran off. Duke accepted this and found something else to do. We all watched in amazement, singing his praises. Years later, we still talk about that night.

He topped this act a few summers later when we were enjoying play time on the shore of Lake Ontario. Duke was a natural water dog who glided through the water with the grace of a ballerina. Lou could barely hold his head above water and would frantically swim, eyes bulging, until his feet touched bottom. He preferred wading on the rock slabs and fetching sticks in shallow waters. One time, I threw Lou's stick a little too far and the waves carried it out of reach. To Duke's delight, he safely possessed both sticks. This scene didn't last long. In characteristic fashion, Duke could not ignore Lou's longing look and he did the most incredible thing. He gave one of the sticks a push towards shore with his mouth. Lou eagerly waded out and grabbed it. And yes, when Duke came back to shore with his stick, Lou took that one too.

Duke was a friend to all of us no matter what. His antics, foibles, dorky quirks (like sleeping in Lou's little bed when he had his own big bed), and happy spirit made me laugh at times when little else could. How could I not laugh when he would throw his big, wet, smelly self onto my lap after having a good roll on a dead carp? Of course, his very favorite time to do that was after a bath – no sweet smelling fur for Duke!

One of Dukey's foibles was stealing items. He so loved tissues that one of his nicknames was "McTissue". Even as he grew weak and winded with metastasized

thyroid cancer, he made me laugh one last time when I spotted him in the yard with a small pair of mounted antlers. His antler 'smile' looked so funny I just had to shoot [this video](#).

At almost 15 years old, on Friday the 13th of March, 2010, it was once again Duke's turn to be on the receiving end of our compassion. This time, there was no easy fix. I prayed every day that he would pass away peacefully in his sleep so I wouldn't have to make that awful, fateful decision. Taking him to the vet for that shot was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do. Later that night, when I awakened from a fitful sleep, there was a very different feeling in my room. It was as if I was in an energetically palpable void that literally took my breath away. My eyes popped open and I said, "Oh. My God." Lou was snuggled beside me, but the room felt so dark and *so empty*. It was only then that I really truly realized the magnitude of Duke's soul and how his life force filled our home without us even knowing it.

As I look back over my life with Duke, I have to wonder. Was it coincidence or an act of the divine that made him follow my sons? A puppy, let alone one that would grow into a big, hairy dog, was not in my plans. Yet there he was. I used to think we rescued Duke, but it is perhaps more true that in so many ways he rescued us. He was always there when we needed a friend, showed us how to live and love life in the moment, and was an example of extending grace to the undeserving. We are so grateful to have shared our lives with this wonderful soul. He will always have a place in our hearts and we are better people for having known him.

Story by Val Silver

