



Aussie Rescue & Placement Helpline, Inc.

Holidays 2014

Dear ARPH Friends:

I am writing today to thank you for your past support and to ask you to continue to help ARPH make a difference in the lives of homeless Australian Shepherds. There are several reasons why I am donating my time and a portion of my charitable giving dollars to ARPH every year:

- ✓ ARPH is effective. In 2013, 241 Aussies were taken into the program and an even greater number were referred to other sources of assistance. 258 Aussies were adopted! Even better news is that thru the end of August 2014, 101 Aussies had already been adopted out thanks to ARPH's efforts. **My donation helps make this level of rescue possible.**
- ✓ ARPH is efficient. In 2013, \$93,172 was spent *on veterinary services, ARPH's largest single expense.* This is a big increase over 2012. **My donation reaches the dogs.**
- ✓ ARPH continues to be well managed. ARPH uses an outside accounting firm that specializes in non-profits to prepare certified financial statements and the IRS Form 990 (ARPH's tax return). ARPH's Form 990 is available on-line at www.guidestar.org. **ARPH's management system has transparency, checks and balances, and the expertise of outside professionals to keep the organization on track.**
- ✓ ARPH is staffed completely by volunteers. Without Reps and Foster Homes there is no ARPH. Reps and foster home volunteers contribute hundreds of hours and their own money (for expenses such as gas) to help these Aussies. What they get in return is the satisfaction of knowing they made a difference in the lives of the dogs (and the people) with whom they've worked. See Darra's story on Page 4 to see how true this is!

The funds raised by this once-a-year letter generated 25% of the charitable donations ARPH received last year. Your generosity makes a huge difference for us. If you are looking for a way to help Aussies via an established charity you know and trust, please consider donating to ARPH and letting us know how your dog is doing (see page 3). Your generosity and your gratitude fuel our organization.



It really, for me, comes down to the individual dogs like Darra (story on page 4). I contribute so there can be more Darra's, and Teddy's (pictured) next year. Thank you for joining me.

Mary C. Foley
Teddy's Mom

P.S. To make a donation, please send a check made out to ARPH and send it directly to ARPH in the enclosed envelope or mail it to ARPH's Treasurer, *Micki Handte*, PO Box 5305 New Castle PA 16105 and enclose a note to let us know how you and your Aussie(s) are doing. Thank you.

2014 ARPH Dog of the Year

Darra

Darra came into ARPH from a shelter with matted fur and worms, and was so scared she would freeze in place. It became apparent that she was high energy and untrained. Her foster parents enrolled her in a training class and really worked with her. Thank you, Karen Eisenreich and Dave Kidwell, foster home extraordinaire!

Pulling up to our house that first time Darra became all nerves. She froze outside the car and didn't want to go up the steps. Ever so slowly, she placed one paw on each step and immediately froze once inside. The first night in our house she stayed in a crouch position, tail between her legs, and slowly followed us from room to room.

Darra has exceeded all expectations. I run a Humane Society Education Program and go to local schools to teach students about responsible pet care and the importance of adoption.

Darra is my animal ambassador. After each lesson the students eagerly get Darra to give high fives. After learning that Darra was rescued, many students can't stop talking about how much they would love to adopt a dog! Darra is also a therapy dog and visits assisted living homes each month for Pets on Wheels.

At first Darra needed me, but now I'm the one who needs her. I need her kisses and cuddles every morning, and I need her wagging tail and dancing paws that greet me every time I come home.



I sometimes wonder where my sweet girl came from, but her past doesn't matter. Now and the future are all that do. Darra has two forever families, the family she found in ARPH and the family she found in me.

*Nicky W., Maryland
Darra's Mom*

ARPH Rep: Amy Vanderryn

