

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Contact - Jill Henke, Community Director
Gateway Pet Guardians
314.303.2777
jill@gatewaypets.org
www.gatewaypets.org

Local Animal Rescue Honors Betty White Through Heartwarming Rescue of Two Stray Dogs

January 10, 2022 (East St. Louis, IL) – Last week, Gateway Pet Guardians (GPG) was successful in humanely trapping two female stray dogs, including one who had been roaming the Metro East area since November. With temperatures dropping below freezing, their community outreach team and countless concerned community members were on a mission to rescue this longtime wayward wanderer.

“Her story went viral on Facebook and we were tagged numerous times,” Jill Henke, Community Director for GPG said. “Aside from the bitter cold conditions, the pressure was on to get her in our care. While we were setting a trap for this social media star, we ended up catching another female stray dog, who we named Rose.”

The elusive dog, who was named Betty in honor of the late actress, comedian and lifelong animal lover, Betty White, was brought to GPG’s Pet Resource Center for vetting and tested positive for heartworms, which is a serious and potentially fatal disease found in the heart, pulmonary artery and adjacent large blood vessels. Her x-rays showed that the right side of her heart was enlarged, which indicates advanced heartworm disease. With this prognosis, she will be undergoing a series of heartworm injections to kill the adult heartworms.

“Heartworms in dogs will lead to serious health complications and death if left untreated,” Henke said. “No one wants to hear that their dog has heartworms, but the good news is that most infected dogs can be successfully treated. The best treatment is prevention, so monthly preventatives and routine testing by your vet is what we recommend to ensure happy, healthy pups.”

In honor of Betty White’s 100th birthday on January 17, GPG has joined the viral #BettyWhiteChallenge to raise money for pets in need like their Akita mix and Pittie mix namesakes. This challenge aims to honor the incredible legacy of Betty White through donations to animal welfare organizations around the world.

“Betty White was a friend to countless animals throughout her legendary life, and now that legacy is living on.” Henke said. “We are excited to participate in a movement that celebrates the life of someone who was a dedicated and compassionate advocate for animals in need.”

Aside from monetary gifts, GPG says people can also make an impact by opening their homes to a dog or cat in need. At this time, GPG has several pets, including Betty who are looking for a loving foster or forever home. If interested in fostering or adoption, visit gatewaypets.org for more information.

About Gateway Pet Guardians:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Gateway Pet Guardians (GPG) is a 501(c)3 animal welfare organization focused on creating a community of healthy pets and empowered pet owners in the East Side Pet District - East St. Louis, Cahokia Heights, Washington Park and Fairmont City. Founded in 2004, GPG works to provide judgment-free and equitable access to pet resources, as well as remove barriers to pet ownership through progressive programming and collaborative partnerships. GPG relies on the generosity of contributors, funders and volunteers to help further the mission of keeping pets and people together in the East Side Pet District. For more information or to make a donation, visit gatewaypets.org.