

An Amazing Journey

Good Sam members help drive a disabled dog from Georgia to Washington state

BY PAULA LOEHR

Good Sam member Richard Daniels, who runs an animal shelter in Waynesboro, Georgia, spearheaded an effort by RVers to transport a disabled dog to her new home on the other side of the continent.

Anna, a Labrador retriever who had a leg amputated after an accident, was relayed from RV to RV across the U.S. in an effort that was coordinated by postings on the Old Stray thread on RV.net, which is affiliated with the Good Sam Club. Anna's journey started at Old Fella Burke County Animal Rescue (OFBCAR) shelter that was founded by Daniels, and ended at the Spanaway, Washington, home of club members Ryan and Beth Eaton, who had agreed to adopt the canine after reading about her on RV.net.

The journey garnered attention from news outlets across the country, including NBC News, which covered Anna's journey during one of their nightly broadcasts.

"The volunteers are the best and I cannot praise them enough for their dedication and hard work," says Daniels, who frequently posts information about the stray dogs who reside at his shelter.

Anna's story started in January, when she was found abandoned on a Georgia roadside after having sustained a near-fatal injury. Irene Pitts, an OFBCAR volunteer, nursed the dog back to health after she received life-saving leg-amputation surgery.



After the Eatons offered their home to Anna, it didn't take long for what Daniels calls a "chain of caring" to form as RVers from all parts of the U.S. eagerly participated in helping transport the dog. In June, Anna finally reached her destination.

The Eatons have given Anna a new name—Tia—and they report that she's settling in well at their home. "I'm glad we're getting the word out about adopting rescued animals and volunteering with the rescue effort itself," says Ryan Eaton.

Anna isn't the only canine who has been saved by Daniels. In 2006, Daniels rescued Old Fella, a black dog that he found wandering in a South Carolina campground (see "Puppy Love," *Highways*, May 2006). After sharing his experience with fellow participants in the RV.net thread, Daniels received encouragement and donations to establish a shelter in the name of the dog that he rescued. The result is his own state-licensed shelter.

OFBCAR has expanded to encompass numerous volunteers and 12 foster homes caring for more than 40 dogs and puppies plus a page on petfinders.com. Approximately 100 dogs have been saved since OFBCAR's inception and have been placed in new homes. ●



Above, Good Sam member Richard Daniels with Old Fella, a stray dog that became the inspiration for the Old Fella Burke County Animal Rescue. Top, Anna was transported across the country by RVing volunteers.