

Since I was a very young child I have always had a special love of animals. My parents had a dog before I was borne. I grew up (as an only child) and considered the dog more like a sister than a pet. I don't remember a time that I did not bring home lost or abandoned animals to "live with us". My Mom, being a great animal lover, always let them stay if we could not find their original home.

I suppose that was the way my early involvement with animal rescue began. Many years later I am still very interested in animal rescue. I am just going about it in a different way.

As a young adult I tried to do all of the rescue work completely on my own. When I would find an animal that I believed was lost or strayed, I would take it home with me. If it was in good condition I would make signs for telephone poles and grocery store bulletin boards. I would pour over the newspapers trying to find the animal's owner. (I saved the Lost and Found columns for months). These were the days before computers and micro-chips. If the animal was ill or injured I would take it to a Veterinarian at my expense. If the animal was unclaimed I would try to find someone who was looking for an animal to adopt. All of the care, feeding, materials needed for signs were paid for out of my own pocket. Sooner or later I would find a really good home for my foundling. If I didn't, it stayed with me for the rest of its life. Needless to say this was a very costly venture for me but also a very slow way to re-home an animal. It was the best I could do at the time.

As I got older I found that I could be much more effective working with an Animal Rescue Group. There are many different kinds of Rescue Organizations. (The Greater Cincinnati Pet Pages list many of those groups in this book.)

These groups are wonderful at finding, housing, caring for and getting Veterinary care (spaying and neutering included) for lost or unwanted pets. Throughout the last 30 years I have worked with several different local groups in their fund raising efforts with my Animal Communication work. I have spent years doing animal reading at events. The animals' owner would make a donation to the Rescue Group that was sponsoring the event in exchange for my animal communication reading.

Privately I have worked with the Scratching Post (a cat rescue) for several years. I have done fund raising but also worked there in a more physical way. I have washed litterboxes, folded laundry, cleaning and many of the other things that need to be done on a daily basis.

Rescue groups can pull from the many talents and resources of their members and together they accomplish so much more than one individual can ever do on their own. Needless to say their work is never done. A person can easily find a rescue group that fits your own interest. Volunteers are always needed in any number of necessary jobs.

If you are interested in volunteering your time to helping lost, strayed, abandoned or homeless animals there is a local group that is in need of your services. If you have some time to spare please give it a try. It is the most rewarding work I have done in my entire life.