



SSRR Advocate

happy new year

2015

Issue 002 January 2015

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A Letter from SSRR President, Bill Lawton

I am very happy to have completed my first calendar year and starting my second year, as President of this incredible organization. We have done some pretty amazing things in 2014, all of which I am very proud of. Each of these changes has been done with the best interests of our dogs in mind and have yielded very positive results. In 2015 we have even more changes planned which will help us to save and find new homes for more Rotties than in the past year.

One thing I've always kept in mind and have been very aware of (whether it's running a business or a rescue) is that it takes more than 1 person to make any organization successful. I couldn't do this without the wonder team of SSRR volunteers we have.

- We have a great group of Board Members and Coordinators who work very hard to ensure this organization is the best it can be. ALL of our Board Members and Coordinators are volunteers and do not get paid for anything they do. They do this out of the love of the breed, with many of them working full-time jobs.

- I truly believe that our Foster families are some of the best in rescue. Without our Fosters, we wouldn't have a home for our dogs to go to. Without a home, we wouldn't be able to save as many Rotties as we have. Fostering is both rewarding and challenging at the same time.

- We also have some of the best transporters who sacrifice their time and change their plans in order to help our dogs get to their foster or forever home.

- Without the generosity of our supporters and contributors, there would not be a rescue and none of what we do would be



(Continued from page 1)

•Without the generosity of our supporters and contributors, there would not be a rescue and none of what we do would be possible. We are fortunate enough to have some of the most generous donors and supporters I've ever seen.

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas (or Happy Holidays, if you prefer)! Thank you to all who have worked so hard this past year to save this beautiful, loving and amazing breed.

I would like to thank every one of our volunteers and our wonderful Foster group, along with all of our supporters and donors. It truly does take a village to save each and every Rottie that we save and I can't think of a better village than the one that SSRR has.



SSRR 2014 Results

As we begin the New Year, we reflect on the huge successes of SSRR during 2014 and look with hope to a promising 2015, saving the lives of even more Rottweilers & Rottweiler Mixes!!

Our numbers for 2014 are nothing short of phenomenal! With the dedicated help of our volunteers, **128** Rottis have been adopted to loving homes (not including several *pending adoptions*); an additional **42** are safe and in foster care, *bringing the total number of lives saved by rescuing, fostering and/or adoptions, to 170 for 2014!!*

It takes so many people, doing a variety of volunteer duties, to accomplish this: Intake & Intake Team, Fosters, Foster Coordinators, Adopters, Adoption Coordinators, and Transporters, in addition to the tremendous amount of work of the SSRR Board of Directors. But, without the continuing financial support of so many SSRR Donors, we could not have saved the majority of these dogs. It would be wonderful if all of the dogs came to us healthy and with little need for medical care; sadly, that is not the case. SSRR tries to give a chance to the ones who would likely never make it out of a shelter, and this includes funding everything from heartworm treatment to significant injuries. Rescuing a number of unhealthy dogs can financially ruin a rescue organization; yet, there are many that we just cannot turn our backs on—these are the lost souls who would have been left behind. And, these dogs are so fortunate that our wonderful donors feel the same. There is no greater reward in rescue than the happiness of a new adoption family, made possible by the unconditional love of a Rottie so very close to being euthanized.



Jomar

Adopted March 28, 2014

Your tax deductible donation to SSRR can be made through the following PayPal link:

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=s-xclick&hosted_button_id=HJ4GMB2K8FXLS

Or, by mailing a check to:

Linda Whigham, SSRR Treasurer
P.O. Box 21133
White Hall, AR 71612



Sasha

SSRR is a 501(c)3 and operates totally by volunteers; therefore 100% of monies raised by donations and/or fundraisers go to the costs associated with rescuing, vetting, and general care of our dogs. Most of our expenses are for veterinarian services; not one penny is paid to any staff or volunteer.

We are grateful to you for supporting Southern States Rescued Rottweiler; without your generosity we could not accomplish our goal—saving and placing as many homeless Rottweilers as possible.



Melissa and Gigi

You can make your donation through our PayPal link on our website or mail your donation to:

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White Hall, AR 71612

Our Foster Homes

SSRR is a foster based rescue, meaning that since we do not have a facility, we rely solely on foster homes for our Rotties. A foster home is a temporary home for one of our Rotties until SSRR finds a permanent home for the dog. A foster home provides the love and shelter for the dog while SSRR provides and pays for all medical needs.

Being a foster home is not easy. Taking a Rottie into your home, caring for him, loving him, and then letting him go to a new forever home can be very difficult. But, fostering can also be the most rewarding and fulfilling thing a true dog lover can ever do to support dogs in need.

If you are interested in becoming a foster home, please fill out a [**Foster Volunteer Application**](#).

Meet our Fosters

Mike and Pam (Elijay, GA)

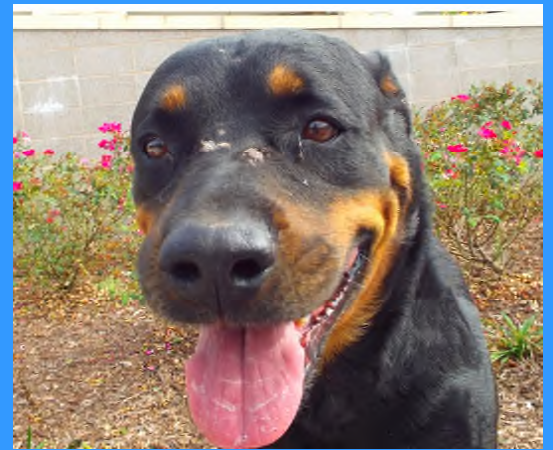
"We (Mike and Pam) adopted Piper from SSRR about 2 years ago. We already had Louie (a mixed breed dog.) When Mike brought Piper home, Louie and Piper were immediate friends.

We began working with SSRR processing applications, and helping with transports. We saw a photo posted by Bill Lawton of a rottweiler in Virginia that needed fostering. She was under weight, had sores on her face and head and was believed to be 9 years old. We decided to foster her thinking she would be with us forever. Her name was Dazz.

After consulting with several veterinarians, it was determined that Dazz was about 4 years old, not 9. She had lived a hard life, outside most of the time without shelter, and not properly fed.

We tried all the "right" things to introduce the Dazz to our two dogs...in a neutral location, etc. Things did not go well. Dazz was very friendly with Louie and Piper, but they were not happy that another dog was coming into their home. I talked with several experienced rescue people about how to handle the situation.

We were told that these are large, powerful dogs and we had to introduce them carefully to avoid any problems. We began by keeping Dazz separated from Louie and Piper. We put her in a crate and covered 3 sides. Louie and Piper could sniff the crate, and could see her and there wasn't any growling or problems.



FOSTERING saves lives

Please consider
fostering. There are
many dogs that need
you.



You can make your donation
through our PayPal link on our
website or mail your donation to:

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Mike and Pam (Elijay, GA) - Continued

Each day we would uncover another side of Dazz's crate so the dogs got used to her being in the home. After about 4-5 days, all dogs were able to be in the same room without restraint (no toys and no food in the room).

The entire time we had Dazz we fed her separately from our two dogs since we were trying to avoid any food aggression problems. Dazz had no food aggression with either of us but we were not sure how she would react around Louie and Piper.

Eventually, all the dogs enjoyed playing together, sleeping together and were great friends. Dazz has since found a wonderful home in Atlanta (we almost foster failed!) We still think of her every day, and we are so happy she found a home where she is loved and spoiled.

Fostering a dog was one of the most rewarding things we have ever done. It just feels good to help save a life!"



Katie (Hampton, VA)

"My journey into fostering started in January 2014 when I was playing on Facebook, and a friend had posted about a local Rottie who was heartworm positive. Now I knew nothing about heartworm positive dogs other than care is super expensive. There was no PayPal account or any link to send money to, but there was a link to the SSRR website. So I clicked it and I ended up on the application to foster page. I figured what the hell, I probably won't be approved since we don't have a fence as I had been denied previously (without a home visit) from another rescue. So I applied and waited. A few weeks went by, and finally I received an email that my application was being reviewed. Oh crap! I had to think long and hard about who I listed as a reference, and let them know. My sister was excited, my grandmother's only thought was what if you have a baby and I don't remember my third. A few more weeks went past and I thought for sure I was denied since I had not heard anything.

Finally Bill contacted me to schedule the home visit. He explained his busy schedule and we attempted to schedule a time when both myself and my husband would be home. After a few weeks of sending emails, text messages and missing phone calls, we were finally about to schedule a visit in May. We were approved after the home visit and few words from Bill about losing one of his dogs. Now it was just the waiting game since we already have a male Rottie and we have cats. In June Bill shared a local boy who had been abandoned at the shelter by his original, and only, owners over a misunderstanding (details are still confusing to me). I saw his picture, I saw his eyes. He was so confused and scared. I fell in love immediately. His name was Piglet. I hated the name but loved the dog. I took my Rottie, Wickett, to meet him at the shelter. After a tense little bit, and one issue (water).





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Katie Martines (Hampton, VA) - continued

I agreed to take him on too, bringing our home to 3 rottweilers, 2 of which are fosters. He was going to be put to sleep but instead he lived by coming home with me on November 25, 2014. He was given the name Han (get it? You know you want to laugh about Han and Leia!). He had Hookworms and had recently been neutered. He was also very hungry. Oh so hungry, since he weighed a mere 67 lbs. Han is a beautiful boy, with a beautiful heart who appeared to not only have been neglected (severely underweight and covered in sores) but is scared of loud voices and raised hands. Our house is loud, always messy, covered in Rottweiler fur and we are always tired but I would not change it for the world. Being greeted by their wonderful faces and loving kisses is the best way to end a horrible day, and the best way to start a new day. Fostering hurts sometimes as you must say goodbye at some point.

We said goodbye in October and then said our final goodbye as Piglet crossed the Rainbow Bridge on Dec. 2, 2014 due to cancer. With Leia we will cry and say goodbye when she is adopted in the coming months. I will cry when Han is adopted, as he has turned into a wonderful and loving dog who does not take the house for granted. My dogs are my life, my world, and I will never give up on them. Making the difference, saving them is what its all about. While you may not change the world when you foster, for that particular dog, and the next dog that enters the shelter after you save your foster, you changed their worlds. Who really rescues who?"



Emily (Cornelius, SC)

"We considered fostering some time ago, but never acted on it because of our young kids. We saw Elsa's picture on the SSRR news feed on Face Book in mid Septemeber of this year and my husband and I both knew INSTANTLY that it was time. She was so pitiful and needed so much love and medical help. The thought of letting her miss out on a family and a great life was too much. I contacted SSRR and, since I had adopted from them previously, within 4 days I was on my way to pick up our new addition. She was dirty, smelly, scared, and weak when I picked her up. My heart broke! I got her home, gave her a bath and a hot meal. It was like someone turned on a light inside of her. She was a puppy again! Once we got her used to our dogs and kids, we just absorbed her into our lives. She played and ate and got tons of love and attention from all of us. Her heartworm treatment has gone smoothly and now she has a family on standby. We would do this again in a heartbeat. To take a dog from pictures number 1 & 2 all the way to the next two pictures in such a short time and already have a family that wants her, is one of the most rewarding things we have done. I feel like we helped give Elsa exactly what she was supposed to have. We are going to miss her dearly, but I'm sure we will see her and her new family often. They are GREAT and are already thinking they might like to foster one day as well."





Bonnie with Josey

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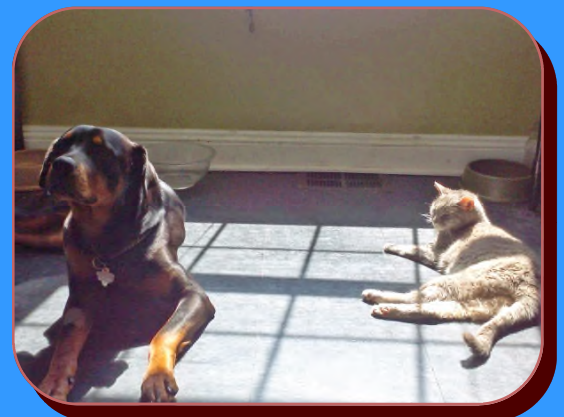
(Renee Pouvreau & Amy Knost, Pensacola, FL)

"I think the origins can be originally traced back to Amy's love for the breed, and specifically for the love she had for her first Rottweiler, Rex. She still grieves for him after all of these years. When we met she talked of him and we talked about getting a dog of our own. She wasn't sure she was willing to get another Rottie, no dog could ever take Rex's place, so we talked of Golden and Danes and Labs. Well, I had finally had enough of talking and decided to do a search on Petfinder for Rottweiler puppies. There was one showing in our area and, after a bit of prodding on my part, Amy gave them a call. Well, the puppy was no longer available but the woman that she spoke to (Amy loves to talk and they were, by that point, very good friends!) told her of a litter of puppies that had just been picked up by a local rescue that may be Rotties. We called and found out they were just a day or two old and being cared for by a woman 20 miles away. We were in the car in less than an hour, pulled up in front of her house and were shown the tiny little balls of nothings that had been left in a box on a vet's doorstep the day before. We knew that one of those pups was to be ours. We stayed and talked to her for a long time, got to feed the babies and discussed what we needed to do to adopt. Amy also asked if there was a way to bring him home right then. Well, that wasn't going to happen so we finally left with the understanding Amy would be back the next day after work (she worked a few blocks from the woman's home).



Later the next day I received a phone call saying she was not coming home alone! She had arranged to "foster" one of the puppies until he was 8 weeks old and we could legally adopt him. I work from home and spent the next few weeks bottle feeding, nursing, burping, cuddling, pottyng this little bundle. We were there when his ears opened, his eyes opened, he took his first steps. Beau has never known a single day without us, without love and adoration from his pack.

The next stage in our foster journey came when I saw a Rottie girl posted on a local lost & found Facebook page. She had been picked up wandering the street, taken to a local boarding facility which could only hold her for two days. Her two days were up and they were going to take her to the shelter (we still have a kill shelter here). I knew she would be done for there so I offered to foster her and help to either find her home or find her a new home. We had not had another dog in the house and didn't know how Beau would do but he was amazing. Her took to her like a long lost littermate and they were thick as thieves in no time. She stayed with us for 3 weeks and I was finally able to locate her owner and she happily went back to her family. Beau was so sad that his friend left and, it was at that point, I seriously thought about signing up with a rescue group to foster. Amy contacted SSRR and we went through the process to be added to the list of foster homes.



IF YOU HAVE ROOM IN YOUR
HEART & HOME
BECOME A FOSTER



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(Renee Pouvreau & Amy Knost, Pensacola, FL) - continued

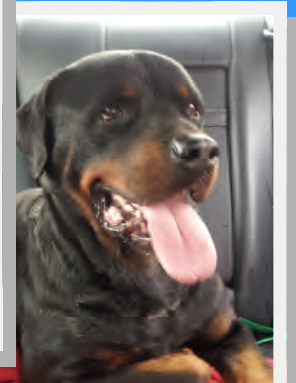
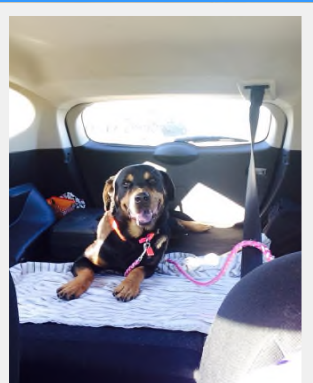
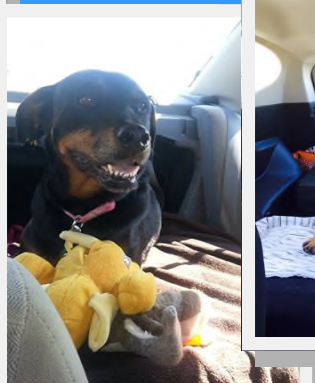
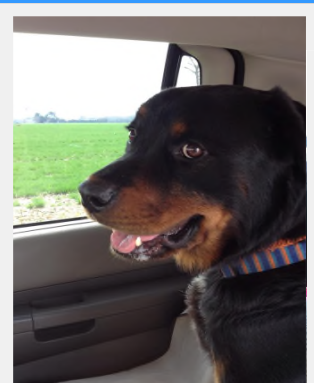
Fostering has been an amazing thing for our entire family. Beau has found his calling, he is our therapy dog for dogs, specifically girls. He teaches them that humans are good, that they can be trusted, life is good and fun and it is all about love. Our kids have learned to be gentle and kind, to understand that there are bad things in the world but that everyone can do their part to make it better. And we have all learned to love and let go. Our job is to take in the sick, scared, untrained dogs and teach them to be good companions, to trust and love, to become healthy and strong, and then to let them go to a home where they can share what they have learned.

I love these dogs. I love their intelligence, their strength, their joy and goofiness. They have brought so much joy and laughter into our home and I believe they have given me so much more than I can ever give them."



Join our Transport Team

Transport help is of great demand in SSRR. Since we do not limit adopters by making them choose only from the dogs that are in their state of residence, we often need to arrange transport for an adopted Rottweiler to go from one state to another. Our volunteers will fill various 'legs' of the transport as they relay the dog across our coverage area from its current location to its new or adoptive home. Most legs range in size from 50 to 100 miles. Before you take a road trip with your family Check with SSRR to see if you can help transport a dog to their "Forever Home" If you are in one of our coverage areas, please contact [**Julie Quin Andrews**](#) to join our wonderful group of transporters.





Clyde
(Adopted)



Why you should microchip your pet

You've probably seen or read a story in the news about families who lost their dog. They did everything to find him—putting up posters, checking shelters—nothing. Then, after months or years, they get a phone call. Their dog was found. The person who found the dog took him to be scanned for a microchip and it showed who his family was and they were reunited.

Statistics indicate that missing pets rarely make it home:

- The American Humane Association estimates over 10 million dogs and cats are lost or stolen in the U.S. every year.
- *One in three pets will become lost at some point during their life.*

A study published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, including 53 animal shelters across the U.S., confirmed the high rate of return of microchipped dogs and cats to their families, and the importance of microchip registration. From the study:

- Only about 22 percent of lost dogs that entered the animal shelters were reunited with their families. However, the return-to-owner rate for microchipped dogs was over 52 percent (a 238 percent increase).

- Only 58 percent of the microchipped animals' microchips had been registered in a database with their pet parent's contact information.

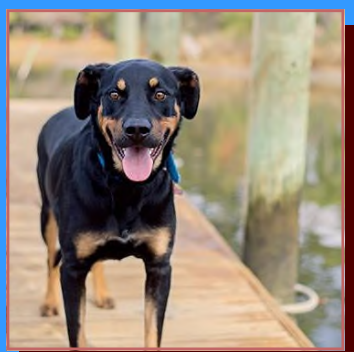
The chip's only as big as a grain of rice. It's usually implanted in the scruff of your dog's neck and doesn't cause any pain for your pet. And it only costs around \$25 to \$50, depending on your vet. A microchip and enrollment in a pet recovery database brings lost pets home and provides peace of mind that your beloved companion will never wander unknown.

Microchipping substantially increases the likelihood of a pet returning home by offering secure, reliable, unique and permanent identification.

If the above are not good enough reasons to have your dog microchipped, then I have another very good reason that we don't like to talk about. We all love our Rotties and want to do everything we can for them but not everyone shares our passion. In many towns, cities or counties, Rottweilers are banned. Where you live may not have a ban on breeds but what about the next town or county over? If your furry family member ends up there and is not microchipped then it is a very real possibility that he will be euthanized in the shelter. Unfortunately, this is the sad and harsh reality for a breed that is so misunderstood.

Simply getting your furry family member microchipped will not do much of anything if he becomes lost. You must also register the microchip. Complete the paperwork that comes with the chip and send it to the registry, or do it online if that option is available. Some companies charge a one-time registration fee while others charge an annual fee. You'll also receive a tag for your pet's collar with the chip number and registry phone number.

Remember. If you move or change your phone number, you need to contact the company that registers the chip to update your information; otherwise, the chip will be useless. You may be charged a small fee to process the update.



Fostering is love

One of the most unconditional and selfless kinds of love.

Volunteer with SSRR

Become a Foster

Southern States Rescued Rottweilers, Inc. is dedicated to saving the lives of Rottweilers throughout our eleven states, but we could not fulfill that mission without the existence of Foster Homes.

The SSRR Foster Home Program was created to provide temporary housing to our Rottweilers while providing basic needs such as food, water and shelter; in addition foster homes will work with the foster dog to get him/her ready for adoption.

A foster home is a temporary home for one of our Rotties until SSRR finds a permanent home for the dog. A foster home provides the love and shelter for the dog while SSRR provides and pays for all medical needs.

Being a foster home is not easy. Taking a Rottie into your home, caring for him, loving him, and then letting him go to a new forever home can be very difficult. But, fostering can also be the most rewarding and fulfilling thing a true dog lover can ever do to support dogs in need.

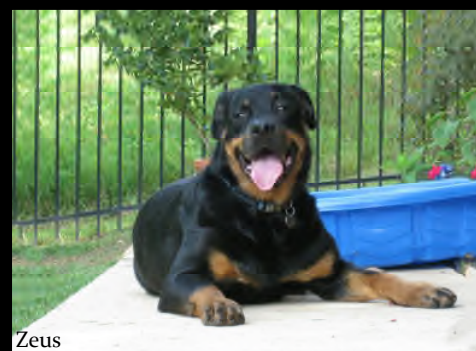
If you are interested in becoming a foster home, please go to our website and fill out a foster application.

Home Visits - A home visit is something that is required before an individual is allowed to adopt one of our Rottweilers. It consists of checking the dog's proposed living conditions, asking questions outlined on our home visit form, and basically ensuring that the home is ready and properly equipped to handle the challenges and rewards of adding a new dog to their home. The Home Checks are the eyes and ears of SSRR, allowing SSRR to place dogs in safe and secure homes.

Transport - Since we do not limit adopters by making them choose only from the dogs that are in their state of residence, we often need to arrange transport for an adopted Rottweiler to go from one state to another. Our volunteers will fill various 'legs' of the transport as they relay the dog across our coverage area from its current location to its new or adoptive home. Most legs range in size from 50 to 100 miles. Before you take a road trip with your family, check with SSRR to see if you can help transport a dog to their "Forever Home".

Administrative Areas - There are other more administrative areas such as fundraising, advertising, secretarial services, correspondence, etc. where we often find ourselves lacking volunteers. If you can be of assistance in any of these areas, we welcome you to volunteer to fill this niche.

Public Education - We often reserve booth space at local dog events to educate about this breed. We are always in need of volunteers to sit at these booths to pass out promotional material and to talk to passersby about Rottweiler rescue, the importance of spaying and neutering, and Rottweilers in general.



Zeus

NEW & COMING SOON

As our President said at the beginning of this newsletter, SSRR has made quite a few changes in 2014 and we are going to continue to make even more changes in 2015. Change is important for any organization because, without change, we would likely lose our edge and fail to meet the needs what's important to us all...our rescued Rottweilers.

In 2014 our changes started with a new website that had much more functionality than any other website that SSRR has had in the past. Our website now posts to hundreds of animal adoption sites and gets thousands of hits each week.

We then moved in to re-organizing and making a bunch of changes behind the scenes that were not noticed by the general public but were worked on very hard by our Board Members. These changes resulted in better tracking of our rescued Rottweilers and more accountability for each of our members.

Towards the end of 2014, we started posting our rescued Rottweilers on Rescume.org. This resulted in our dogs getting even more exposure that they already had. The best part of this website is that it is used by many to find dogs for adoption that are local to them. This cuts down on the long transports we have done in the past and makes it much less stressful for the dog when he/she gets to her forever home. While we take every precaution possible, a long 2 day, 16 hour transport can be very stressful for any dog, no matter how well behaved.

In November we started our own [South-ern States Rescued Rottweilers Transport Group](#). As if this week we have close to 500 transporters who have joined our group and are under the direction of our awesome Transport Coordinator [Julie Quin Andrews](#). Julie works tirelessly to make sure that our transporters and Rotties being transported are done so in the safest and least stressful way possible. Julie spends the time necessary with each transporter giving them guidance and direction as needed. We are very happy to have her as part of the SSRR team.



We started our expansion at the end of 2014 and will continue in to 2015. We have expanded in to Kentucky and Oklahoma and are now in 13 southern states. In 2015 we will continue to build our base of fosters, adopters and transporters.

Soon we will be launching our Seniors for Senior program where Seniors who are 62+ years of age will be able to adopt our Senior Rotties for a low adoption fee, and will get help from SSRR with a few supplies needed to start their adopted Rottie off right. Studies have proven that dogs proved many benefits for Seniors.

The Board Members of SSRR, along with our volunteers will continue to work hard in to 2015, looking for opportunities to improve our rescue so we can save even more Rotties in need .

Treasurer's corner

SSRR was the recipient of two grants in December, a \$700 grant from the Rottweiler Rescue Foundation and a \$750 grant from the AKC Humane Foundation (the second of three annual awards from AKC recognizing our mission of rescuing and rehoming Rottweilers). Monies are used for the medical expenses of dogs in our care e.g. heartworm treatment, vaccines, medications, spay and neutering.

In 2015, we will start publishing our financial reports so our wonderful supporters and donors can see where their money goes and what it's used for.





Kane



President, Temperament Test and Independent Adoptions (IA) Advisor | Bill Lawton

Vice President , Adoptions Advisor | Kathy Coon

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Transport and Home Visit Coordinator | Julie Quin Andrews

Founders | Renice Zimmerman and Judy Marion

SSRR Advocate is published by Southern States Rescued Rottweilers (SSRR)

SSRR is a non-profit corporation registered with the IRS as a 501c3 charitable organization.

Our mission: Educate the public about the Rottweiler breed of dog, plus rescue and place in loving homes Rottweiler's that were abused, left in shelters, or given up by owners, within the 11 southern states where we operate.

Contributions to SSRR are welcome, and are tax deductible.

All submissions for this newsletter should be sent via e-mails at: rottie.info.ssrr@gmail.com and assume granting publication rights within and on SSRR's website and use in any future article's compendium. No payments will be made, no submissions will be returned. SSRR Advocate reserves the right to refuse, edit, or modify any submissions.

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Kody

Rottie.info.ssrr@gmail.com

Find us on the web at: <http://www.southernstatesrescuedrottweilers.org>

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