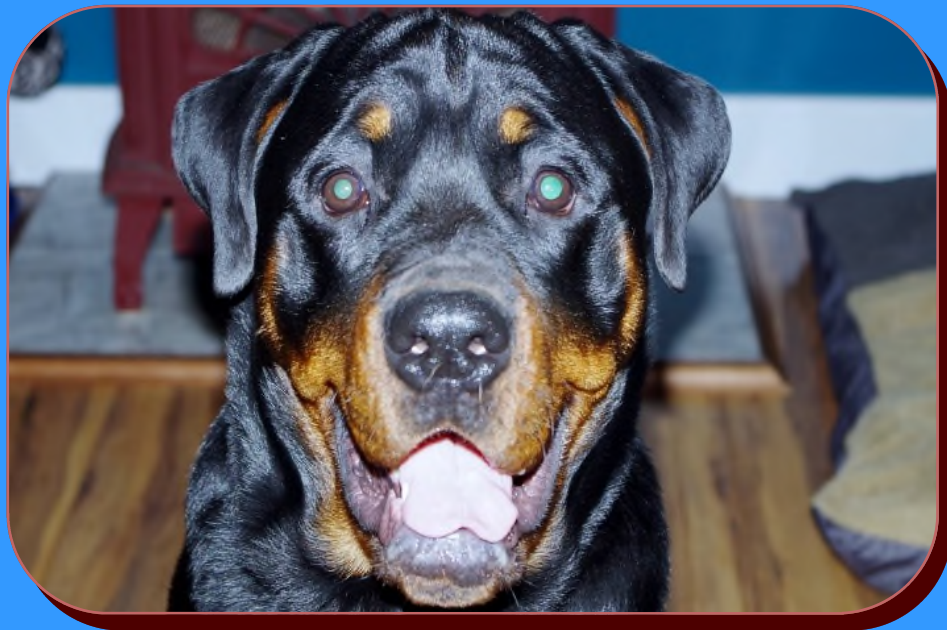




# SSRR Advocate



**Teddy**

## *A Letter from SSRR President, Bill Lawton*

2015 has been a great year for SSRR so far. We have found homes for over 60 Rottweilers and have another 60 plus in foster care. Watch our website for quite a few Rotties that will be coming up for adoption very soon. If you're on Facebook, be sure to like our Facebook page and you'll see the Rotties we take in before they're posted on our website.

I couldn't be happier that we are able to save so many. We are lucky enough to have some of the best foster families who do so much to help our Rotties become the best they can possibly be but we are always looking to add to our foster team. If you are able to open your home and heart to a rescued Rottie, we would love to add you to our team. Without a home, we would not be able to save as many Rotties as we do. Fostering is both rewarding and challenging at the same time. If you are interested in fostering for SSRR, please take a look at our article on how to become a foster family, later in this newsletter.

Recently, I had the opportunity to fostered baby Gracie. She's a very precious little girl who was born on April 23<sup>rd</sup> on a cold cement shelter floor in Memphis, TN. When we heard about Gracie, her mom and her siblings, we just had to take them in to our rescue. It was my first real experience of fostering a puppy so young and even though I got nipped a few times, peed on once and woken up at all hours of the night, I wouldn't trade it for anything. Gracie is one incredibly smart little girl so staying ahead of her is not easy by any means. She was adopted on July, 11<sup>th</sup> and is learning so much with her new family.

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

**SSRR Inc**

c/o Linda Whigham , SSRR Treasurer

PO Box 21133S

White Hall, AR 71612

(Continued from page 1)

As I write this we have made an addition to our coverage area. After receiving many requests to foster for and adopt from SSRR, we have just made the decision to move in to the state of Maryland. This brings our total number of states covered to fourteen! I'm very happy to expand in to another state, but with that comes the task of getting the word out. If you live in Maryland, or have friends living in Maryland, please let them know that SSRR has arrived!

I also want to take a minute to mention some upcoming events that have been both successful for SSRR and fun for all who participate. In August, look for our photo contest for our 2016 "Rott of the Month" wall calendar. Be sure to read about this contest later in this newsletter as we have made a few exciting changes. In November we will be running our Christmas Medical Fund Auction. Our auctions are always exciting and have some really great items you can bid on just in time to give to that certain someone for Christmas. It's never too early to donate items for this auction. If you have anything you would like to donate, please contact our Fundraising Director, Terri Coleman at [tjohnson15@bellsouth.net](mailto:tjohnson15@bellsouth.net). We will be happy to provide you with a tax receipt for any donations.



As you know, we take Rotties with serious medical needs who need surgeries or have heartworms and need treatment. I am continuously amazed at and thankful for the generosity of our supporters and contributors. It's because of each and every one of them that we are able to rescue these precious soles that have little to no chance of making out of the shelter alive. As I've said in the past, we are fortunate enough to have some of the most generous donors and supporters I've ever seen.

## **We NEED Fosters**

If you like our Facebook page, you may see that we are always asking for Fosters and may wonder why. Well one of the reasons is that we allow our fosters to adopt their dogs. Many have opted to adopt their dogs and are now at the limit of what they can handle. In many cases, they still volunteer with SSRR but are no longer able to foster. Another reason is that in the summer months rescues do not get as many people applying to be fosters but the number of Rottweilers surrendered to shelters or picked up as strays increases dramatically. There are so many Rotties in kill shelters that need our help. As long as there are Rotties in need, we will need fosters who are willing and able to help them. We need fosters in all states, but especially AR, LA, KY and OK where we have little to no foster presence. This will allow us to save more Rotties from those states as well.

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. Fosters provide the home, love and food. 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 have adopted from us, then you are automatically approved to foster! If you are not approved but are interested in becoming a foster home, please fill out our online foster volunteer application...

<http://www.southernstatesrescuedrottweilers.org/info/display?PageID=14373>



*Fostering is love*

One of the most unconditional and selfless kinds of love.



**PLEASE BE SURE YOU MEET OUR REQUIREMENTS** before filling out a foster application: We require a Vet reference and 3 personal references, as well as a home visit. You're dogs (and cats) must be UTD with shots and must be spayed or neutered (unless there is a valid reason they can't be). You should have a fenced in yard and be committed to making your foster a part of your family. We do not allow our Rotties to be kept as outside dogs for any reason. If approved, you will be assigned a foster coordinator who will be available to help you through any issues along the way and will give you guidance on our policies and procedures. Your Foster Coordinator will send you dog-to-dog intro

information, foster procedures, a foster manual and other info you need to successfully foster a Rottweiler for SSRR.



Did you know as many as 70% of the Rottweiler's coming into SSRR's foster care system are heartworm positive? Because we believe in placing healthy dogs into safe, loving homes, we do everything we can to ensure the health of the dogs we place.

In 2014, this care has included a myriad of surgeries and treatments including cruciate ligament repair (ACL), heartworm treatment and many other necessary treatments and vet care. Our adoption fee barely covers

the spay/neuter and shots. Without donations we could never help as many as we do.

Like many other non-profits, we hate asking for money, but we ask because we love our Rotties. We ask you to step up, to make a difference, and to be a savior for our Rotties in need and you answer us every time. Our Fundraising Director works hard to come up with fundraisers that will also give you something back for your donation. If you have any ideas on fundraising events, please contact our Fundraising Director, Terri Coleman, at [tjohnson15@bellsouth.net](mailto:tjohnson15@bellsouth.net).

## COMING SOON

Vote for your your favorite photo in SSRR's  
**2016 Rott of the Month Calendar Contest**

All proceeds will go toward the medical needs of our foster dogs, current and future!



SSRR is spotlighting rescued Rottweilers with a 2016 "Rott of the Month" wall calendar. The calendar will feature a different Rottie each month and on the front cover, for a total of 13 photos. Grand Prize winner will grace the

cover and 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners will have the opportunity to select the month they'd like to be "Rott of the Month". Contest will run from Aug 1<sup>st</sup> thru Aug 30<sup>th</sup>. Entry fee will be \$5 per photo and \$1 (\$5 min) per vote!!

### New this year "Reserve a Day"

Want a guaranteed spot in the calendar? Reserve a day to honor your Rott. Your dog's photo will appear on the day of your choice. Just choose your favorite photo and then choose the day and pay! First come first serve! Once a date has been reserved, it will no longer be available. Each day is \$10.

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



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

SSRR Inc

c/o Linda Whigham, SSRR Treasurer

PO Box 21133S

White Hall, AR 71612

## **Trixie's Angel** by Linda Whigham, SSRR Secretary & Foster

I adopted Trixie when she was six months old from SSRR, she was named "burn girl" because she was in the shelter with no hair on her back. She and my other SSRR kid grew to be best buds and she led a charmed life until December 2013 when she was diagnosed with histiosarcoma and had to have her back leg amputated. She lost her battle with cancer on a Friday early in February of this year, dying in her sleep on her bed in front of the fire place. I was committed to drive a transport that next Sunday and knew a family was excited to meet their new dog as I had been to meet Trixie all those years before so could not let them down.



Valley at the shelter

On the Tuesday evening, after helping with the transport a post appeared on the SSRR transport Facebook page - a plea. It was for anyone in AR, there was an 18 month old female in a shelter there, SSRR would tag if they had a foster. The shelter was in White Hall less than half a mile from my house. After a lot of tears I called a good friend of mine and asked if she thought I was crazy to even think about fostering so soon after Trixie passed away. I knew Tanner and I both needed another dog but so soon. We talked for a while and I thought it's just a foster and she looked so sweet in her photograph maybe we could help save her.

Well to cut a long story short and with the support of family and friends I picked her up on Wednesday afternoon. I have named her Valley after Valentine's Day. She is absolutely wonderful - I truly believe Trixie sent her to us, it had to be more than a coincidence for Julie to post her on our transport Facebook page and she be at the shelter in the small town where we live, less than half a mile from our house and she had been there for a couple of months. She is truly a joy and such a happy girl.

I took her straight to my vet when I picked her up, shelter did no vetting at all. She had hookworms as well as being heartworm positive and had scabies too. Got all her shots, some ivermectin and a lime bath. She could not be in close contact with Tanner for about a week because of the scabies so a slow introduction was not going to be a problem. She behaved like a perfect lady during the exam.



Valley today

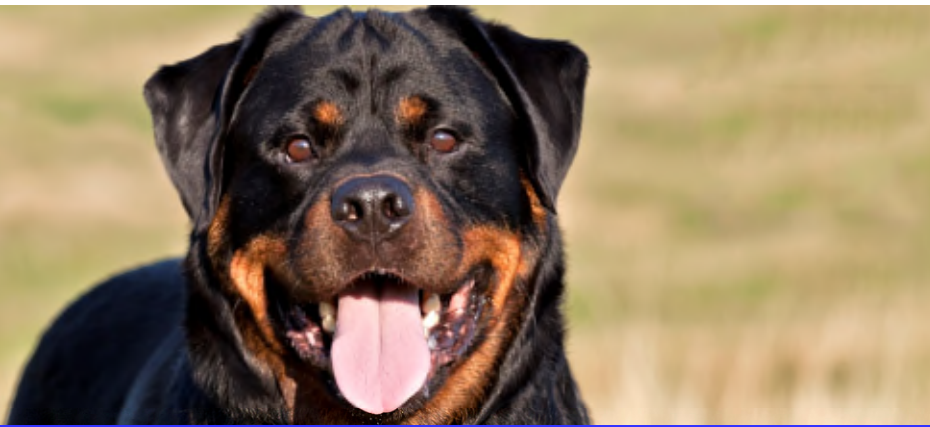
I have an open plan living area in my house and was able to use an x-pen to separate the living room from the dining room and kitchen - Tanner stayed on the living room side and Valley on the other, a have a huge crate on that side too which she slept in her first night from 10.00 pm until 7.00 am, no whining or crying at all. To be perfectly honest with you I think she was glad to be inside, warm and getting regular meals. Her tail never stops wagging. So the first 24 hours in my house turned out to be more than I could have expected - in a good way!

She has put on almost 20 lbs. since she was pulled from the shelter, is scabies and hookworm free and has just finished her first HW treatment with no issues. She is an absolute joy and truly an angel Trixie sent to us, Trixie knew we needed her and she needed us.

Thank-you SSRR.



Piglet



## Is Your Rottie Overweight?

*This was posted in our October issue but after talking to many Rottie owners, I feel it's worth including again. There are many misconceptions on what a Rottweiler should weigh.*

Many Rottie owners over estimate their dog's weight because of their build. Rarely are these estimates accurate. Veterinary scales are the only way to get a true and accurate weight of these dogs.

A majority of Rottweilers seen range from overweight to grossly obese. Why? Because the general public has a mistaken belief that Rottweilers are supposed to look like that! Even many veterinaries are unaware of what proper weight for many breeds looks like.

To check your Rottie to see if it is overweight, have your dog stand up and face forward. Look down on your dog's back. Is your dog the same width from shoulders to hips? Rottweilers should have a DISTINCT "waist" when you look down on them. This means the "waist" is decidedly narrower than either the rib cage or the hip area. Next place your hand on your dogs back with your thumb on its backbone and fingers over its ribcage. Can you easily feel

both backbone and ribs, or do you need to press down? Ribs and backbone should be easily felt without any pressure but should NOT be visible when looking at your dog from the side.



Fat does NOT equal substance in Rotties anymore than it does in humans. Good weight and muscle tone are achieved through measured portion meals and proper exercise. Measured portion meals are a must with Rottweilers as most of them will happily continue to eat and not "self-regulate" at a healthy weight.

Being overweight dramatically increases your Rottweiler's risk factor for common Rottweiler health problems like Hip Dysplasia, Elbow Dysplasia, other joint problems, torn knee ligaments (cruciates), diabetes and thyroid malfunctions. These are not only unhealthy and may very well cause pain to your Rottie but can run in the thousands of dollars in vet costs.

In addition to measuring meals, providing appropriate exercise and keeping your dog's weight within healthy limits; the quality of the dog's food is also a key factor. We cannot be at optimum health if all we eat is candy and fast food and dogs can't be at optimum health if they are fed low quality food and junk filled treats (the equivalent of doggie candy and fast food).

Dogs are primarily carnivores (meat eaters) so be sure to examine your dog's food bag. The #1 ingredient should be a named meat or meat meal such as chicken, turkey meal, Herring meal etc. The food should contain NO by product meal, soy products, corn or wheat. The protein content should be between 22 and 26% for adult dogs and 24-28% for puppies. The fat content should be between 12-16% for adults and 14-18% for puppies. Any fat should be named such as chicken fat, beef fat etc. and should NOT be anonymous such as animal fat. No chemical preservatives (BHA, BHT, Ethoxyquin) should be listed, nor should there be any sugars or artificial colors.

The better quality dog foods are found at pet supply stores, not at grocery stores. Don't be swayed by expensive advertisements and packaging. Use your own eyes and knowledge! If you feed a quality dog food in measured portions meals, keep your dog at its individual optimum weight and provide mental and physical exercise appropriate for your dog's age and health then your dog will be at its optimum health with healthy skin, shiny coat and abundant energy. Your dog will live longer and have less health problems as well. Remember, "Fat Rotties are NOT healthy



Tank



Pacco

# JOIN OUR AWESOME VOLUNTEER TEAMS!

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

SSRR Inc

c/o Linda Whigham, SSRR Treasurer

PO Box 21133S

White Hall, AR 71612

## Volunteer with SSRR

Did you know that SSRR receives at least 10 requests every single day to save the lives of Rottweilers? Without the dedication of our many volunteers, we cannot save *any* of these dogs.

Without volunteers your own adopted Rottweiler could not have been saved...

- Volunteers who pulled your dog from the shelter just in time...
- A Foster family who opened their home and hearts...
- An Adoption Team who processed your adoption application...
- Transport volunteers who delivered your new family member...
- Generous donors who provided funds for vet care...

Ending up in a shelter is a **death sentence** for a Rottweiler...we cannot rescue without you! PLEASE consider getting involved and help us save them!!

*The most urgent need is for Foster Homes. Until a foster home is available, no dogs can be pulled and saved from the shelters. If you have ever thought about fostering a rescued Rottweiler maybe now is the time?? We have so many requests throughout several states to save Rottweilers; unfortunately, without an available foster home, they will die.*



## Volunteer Opportunities

If you're unable to foster there are many other volunteer opportunities in SSRR, ranging from processing applications to transporting. Our Rotties to their foster and forever homes. Each of these opportunities are explained on the following pages. If you have any questions on our needs you can contact the Director assigned to each area or contact SSRR in general at [rottie.info.ssrr@gmail.com](mailto:rottie.info.ssrr@gmail.com).





IF you can't adopt - foster  
IF you can't foster - sponsor  
IF you can't sponsor - volunteer  
IF you can't volunteer - donate  
IF you can't donate - transport  
IF you can't transport - educate

Please share and network animals  
in need...

*Everyone can do something to help Save a Life!*



## SSRR FOSTER CARE Program

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE consider providing a *temporary* home to a Rottweiler in need!

*Fostering Saves Lives!*



### A Foster Home:

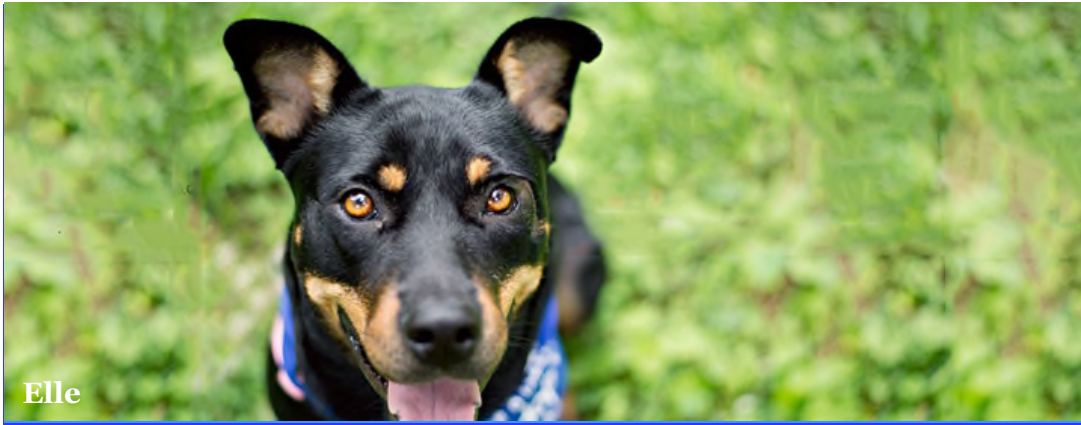
- Provides a rescued Rottweiler with a temporary place to live
- Teaches them how to live as a family member and prepares them for their *forever* home
- Learns the dog's behavior and its needs in a future home
- Provides transport to veterinarian for any health needs or needed procedures or surgeries
- SSRR pays for all veterinarian care
- Fosters have first rights to adopt their foster dog
- Please complete the Foster Application at the SSRR website:  
<http://www.southernstatesrescuedrottweilers.org>

For more information regarding the SSRR Foster Care program please contact: SSRR at [rottie.info.ssrr@gmail.com](mailto:rottie.info.ssrr@gmail.com)



*We understand that not everyone can foster; however, there are so many other areas where you can help and yes, we are desperate for your help!*





Elle



## SSRR ADOPTION Program



Our goal is to place our rescued Rottweilers in permanent, loving homes as quickly as possible, avoiding lengthy stays in their foster homes.

However, to ensure that we are successful in finding the dog's last and forever home, all applicants must be carefully screened and qualified in order to adopt from SSRR.

- Process Adoption Applications
- Contact References, both Personal and Veterinarian
- Gathers further information and/or clarification from applicants on questions that may arise during processing
- Communicate with Adoption Applicants
- Keep them updated during process
- Assist in dog selection
- Follow-up after adopted dog arrives in new home
  - Ensures any questions and concerns are addressed
- Provide feedback to Director of Adoptions

For more information regarding the SSRR Adoption Program please contact:

For more information regarding the SSRR Adoption Program please contact:

**Kathy Coon**, Vice-President & Director, Adoptions at [ttak1@earthlink.net](mailto:ttak1@earthlink.net)



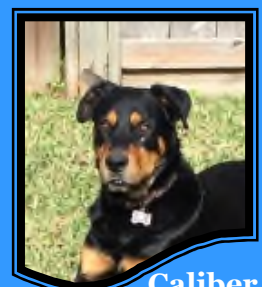
Axel



Boris



Bryce



Caliber





## SSRR INTAKE Program



The Intake program is literally the front line of rescue, tasked with rescuing and bringing the dogs into SSRR. It also requires quick action as the dogs in kill shelters have very limited time to get out.

### Intake Coordinators:

#### Assist the Director of Intake

- Contact shelters or owner surrenders (O/S) to request the completion of intake request forms and follow up to confirm that Intake has received *all* required forms prior to approval to take dog.
- Coordinate with local volunteers to conduct a Temperament Test
- Locate and contact veterinarians near shelters to take our new rescue
- Arrange volunteer transport to take dog from shelter to vet
- Confirm vet services that are needed
- If necessary, arrange temporary boarding by contact boarding facilities near shelters
- Arrange volunteer transport for dog from shelter to boarding facility
- Complete Transport Request when new dog is ready to be moved to foster home.
- Insure Health Certificate is completed for transport once date of transport is confirmed
- Maintain SSRR web forms on Intake and Vet Services for each rescued dog
- Communicate closely with the Intake Director on progress of each rescued dog

For more information regarding the SSRR Intake Program please contact:

**Jennifer Keltner, Director of Intake:** [keltnerhomes@gmail.com](mailto:keltnerhomes@gmail.com)



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

**SSRR Inc**

c/o Linda Whigham , SSRR Treasurer

PO Box 21133S

White Hall, AR 71612

## SSRR FUNDRAISING Program



There are significant, ongoing costs associated with rescue. These expenses begin with providing immediate veterinarian care upon Intake, and continuing throughout foster care, until the dogs are adopted. SSRR does not limit rescue to only “healthy” dogs; therefore the necessary vet services include, but are not limited to heartworm treatment, orthopedic injuries and surgeries, amputations, spay/neuter, parvo, severe respiratory infections, various injuries and numerous illnesses. SSRR relies heavily on donations and additional sources of income to achieve our rescue mission. SSRR is operated solely by volunteers; therefore 100% of all funds received are applied directly to the costs associated with rescue.

## Fundraising Volunteers

### Assist the Fundraising & Marketing Director

#### Fundraising Coordinators:

- Help coordinate and develop new fundraising activities
- Research:
  - available fundraising opportunities
  - available grants
  - companies or organizations who will donate food, treats, supplies for our fosters
  - companies or organizations who will donate items or services for fundraising auctions
- Disseminate fundraising needs and opportunities via social media, email blasts, etc.
- Maintain Wish Lists for donation ideas
- Special Circumstances
  - Be available to quickly create a fundraiser for urgent needs – dogs with extensive medical needs
  - Distribute to multiple resources
  - Research for companies or organizations who will donate to these special needs dogs.

For more information regarding the SSRR Fundraising Programs, contact: **Terry Coleman**,  
Director of Marketing & Fundraising at [tjohnson15@bellsouth.net](mailto:tjohnson15@bellsouth.net)



Scarlett

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

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c/o Linda Whigham , SSRR Treasurer

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White Hall, AR 71612

## SSRR VOLUNTEER Program



The more volunteers, the more efficient the rescue organization can operate. This also results in faster approval of new Fosters and Adopters, allowing us to save more Rottweilers from shelters.

With the many volunteers needed for the operation of SSRR, a Lead Volunteer Coordinator is needed to organize the Volunteer Program.

### Lead Volunteer Coordinator

#### Organize Volunteer Program

- Receive Volunteer Application forms as well as general inquiries
- Direct the Volunteer's information to the appropriate Director, i.e. Foster Care, Adoptions, Intake, Fund-raising, etc.
- Answer general inquiries on volunteering
- Maintain an organized database of Volunteer contact information
- Notify Volunteers about events in their area (Expos, Booths, Bark in the Parks etc.)
- Follow up with applicants to answer questions as needed
- Follow up with other Directors to confirm that the Volunteers were contacted

For more information regarding the SSRR Adoption Program please contact: Bill Lawton, SSRR President: [bill.lawton.ssrr@gmail.com](mailto:bill.lawton.ssrr@gmail.com)

## Independent Adoptions Coordinator

SSRR is often contacted by people having to give up their Rottweiler for various reasons, as well as good Samaritans who found strays and are trying to find homes rather than take them to an almost certain death in a shelter. We offer the option of posting these dogs on our website as Independent Adoptions. Although this is not a busy job, we do need a volunteer to function as the Independent Adoptions Coordinator.





Scarlett

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

**SSRR Inc**

c/o Linda Whigham , SSRR Treasurer

PO Box 21133S

White Hall, AR 71612

## **Independent Adoptions (IA) Coordinator**

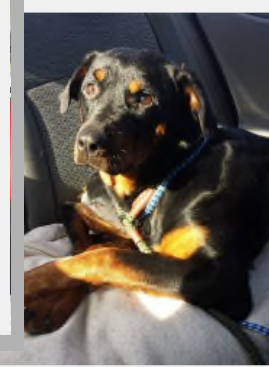
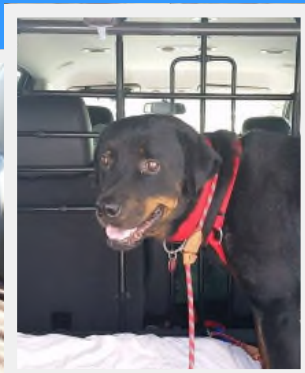
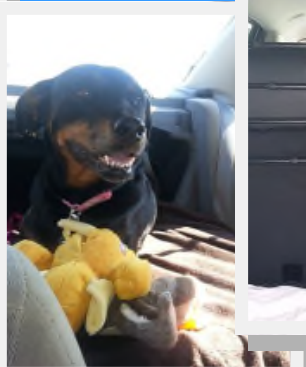
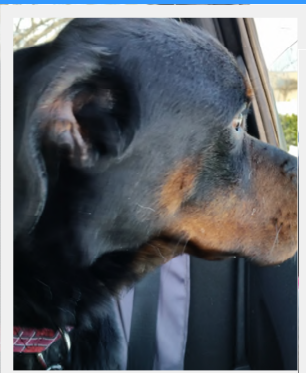
### **Organize Independent Adoptions**

- Receive inquires and correspond with senders
- Respond to emails requesting SSRR's assistance in rehoming their dog.
- Provide potential owner surrenders, or other rescue volunteers, with an option to post for adoption
- Provides guidelines for posting to the IA page.
- Post Independent Adoptions to PetFinder.com
- Maintain current listings on SSRR website
- Follow up with listings to determine if dogs were adopted

For more information regarding the Independent Adoptions please contact: Bill Lawton, SSRR President: [bill.lawton.ssrr@gmail.com](mailto:bill.lawton.ssrr@gmail.com)

## **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 at [jew-els1401@gmail.com](mailto:jew-els1401@gmail.com) to join our wonderful group of transporters.





Kane



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

*Vice President , Adoptions Advisor | Kathy Coon*

*Treasurer, Grant Writing Advisor | Linda Whigham*

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*Director of Foster Care | Dee Pennington*

*Director, Fundraising, Facebook and Events Advisor | Terri Coleman*

*Director, Public Relations and Social Media, Intake Coordinator | Jennifer Keltner*

*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](mailto: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.*

*Southern States Rescued Rottweilers or SSRR Advocate are not affiliated with the organization using the web site [www.ssrr.org](http://www.ssrr.org), Rottweiler Dogs*



AI

*[Rottie.info.ssrr@gmail.com](mailto:Rottie.info.ssrr@gmail.com)*

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

*Follow us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/southernstatesrescuedrottweilers>*

**Southern States Rescued Rottweilers**

P.O. Box 21133  
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[www.southernstatesrescuedrottweilers.org](http://www.southernstatesrescuedrottweilers.org)