



In This Issue:

President's Letter p. 1
Editor's Note p. 2
Foster Spotlights p. 2-3
Raymond's Top Ten p. 6
Inspiration story p. 7-8

Special section –

Starting over: Success stories on a few of our rescued BT buddies!

p. 4-6

Letter from the President

As I sit here watching it snow like crazy and the temperatures go down, it is very scary to me to think of all the animals out there in the cold. I always, of course, worry about the dogs but think of the cats that live out there. And what about the horses? How do they handle this cold? It hurts my heart to know that some of them are freezing to death out there and with no one to help them mostly because of ignorant human beings.

We are entering a new year and as difficult as 2008 was I expect 2009 to be even worse. We rescued well over 300 dogs, mostly Boston terriers this year alone. It is a record year and while it is a record we can be proud of for what we have done, it is very sad to know that so many of only one breed had to be saved.

In the tide of things to come, there will be more mills shut down, I am sure. With that will come many dogs that need to be rescued and rehabilitated. I fear this will be the year that we will have to say no to some even though I thought that '08 would be the year, it was not. We rescued every dog (that could be rescued) we were asked to help with. We did refuse some of the dogs that had more severe aggression issues, but medical never entered in nor did age. I am very proud of our group as a whole; we have some huge hearts in this rescue.

As 2009 begins to take shape we will see the February rush with the dogs that were given as Christmas presents and not wanted and the older dogs being surrendered to

make room for the new puppy. As the New Year starts adoptions could be down because of the economy so I think we have a challenging year ahead of us.

I always remember the first line in my favorite poem by Rudyard Kipling *IF*. "If you can keep your head when all about you, are losing theirs and blaming it on you." I love this poem and say it over and over to myself in times of stress. We will be asked to do things that can virtually seem impossible but if we keep our heads and work slowly through it we will be alright. Our adoption committee has a process now and some great people working on getting these wonderful charges of ours new and loving homes. So we all just have to remember we are a part of a great team of people

that have hearts of gold and give unselfishly of our time and homes and love and energy to do for these dogs what their other people failed to do. Please say a prayer for other breeds that are not so lucky to have us or some of the other great rescues that some do. Please educate your neighbors if it is too cold for their animals to be outside and tell everyone that the world has enough dogs for now. Never stop talking. Never stop hoping and never stop rescuing.

Thank you everyone and please have a happy holiday and a safe New Year. Remember drinking and driving does not mix; your foster dog needs you.

— Gwen Eder

See link below for complete poem by Rudyard Kipling, *IF*
<http://www.swarthmore.edu/~apreset1/docs/if.html>

Editor's Note

As the editor of the newsletter, I am introduced to many success stories that fosters of MWBTR experience. I personally have given a "new life" to two very special Bostons. Chloe was adopted by my husband and me in June of 2005. She is my "baby" and I am truly blessed she picked us. She had an interesting past and it took almost two years before she could stay home alone in her cage without an accident. Now she enjoys her baby carrots as a snack, kongs, running in the snow, and bugging her dog brother Toby.

Toby was adopted in June of 2008 and his past was really a sad story. I was on MWBTR website

one day and as soon as I saw him there I knew I had to have him, so I contacted Pat Parker, his foster mom. Later I notified my husband of this really sweet looking, one-eyed Boston and he agreed to go meet him, which we did about a week later with Chloe.

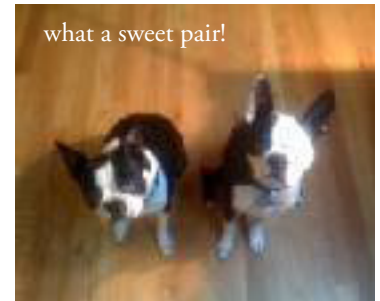
Toby's life was explained to us as the following: He lived with an elderly woman (that's where he lost his eye by a cat) who passed away. The lady's son promised to take him, and later was stolen from his yard. Toby was found in an abandoned house with other animals & taken to the humane society. He was recognized because of the missing

eye & the son was contacted, but he declined to take him back because he now had a new dog.

Well, Toby has found himself a great new life. His dad and best buddy take long naps together. His sister, Chloe, wrestles with him and lets him chase her. He loves his "cousins" that come over and dote on him. Toby is settling in nicely and finally learning to relax and be lazy. He has learned the joy of sleeping under blankets, in closets that are left open, and sometimes even under a Christmas tree.

We are always hearing stories of animals abandoned & abused.

We also need to remember the success stories that happen right along with the bad news. As we start over in 2009, think of the happy endings to keep you going through another year!



Chloe & Toby

– Kristin Kolenko

Foster Spotlight Shining the Spotlight on: Bailey

Age: 7

Location: IL

Likes: Nylabones

Dislikes: Thunderstorms

Home Preference: Mom and/or Dad

Special Requirements: Fenced in backyard, no other animals

You might be interested to know: Bailey loves to have attention. He likes to snuggle but is very independent. He would need to be the *only* dog; he is a very dominant male.

Been with MWBTR since: September 3, 2007



Bailey

BE RESPONSIBLE -
SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PET!

Heartworm can kill, but it is preventable: Give your pets their preventative once a month, all year round.



Foster Spotlight Shining the Spotlight on: Lucky Charms

Age: approximately 2 yrs

Location: Cincinnati, OH

Likes: Lucky Charms is so agreeable – he loves to tug, he loves to take walks, and he loves a good Nylabone, but most of all he loves the ladies- getting along very well with his 2 female companions –1:1 – NO group activities since he is easily swayed by pack aggression!

Dislikes: Lucky does not like to be cold... most winter days he can be found laying on the sun spot or curled up in front of the register... and yes, he wants to put on his fleeces!

Home Preference: Lucky would do well in a home where some one is available the majority of the time – see special needs.

Special Requirements / Needs: Lucky Charms has become a success story and has thrived due in part to pancreatic enzymes and a low residue diet. He does not tolerate snacks, treats, human food or changes in dog food at all. Changes in his food routine produces severe diarrhea, so being able to allow him out to potty when he needs to go is crucial – he doesn't want to potty in the house, but if he has no choice – what's a poor doggy to do?

You might be interested to know: Lucky Charms has to be one of the sweetest, most gentle creatures I've ever met. He is so eager to please and his efforts to learn are monumental – considering his very difficult start in life. He's always thinking and I believe he could teach the Bengals some new moves!

Been with MWBTR since: April 2008



Lucky Charms

Foster Spotlight Shining the Spotlight on: Charlie



Charlie

Age: 6 1/2

Location: Illinois

Likes: stuffed animals, rawhides, and chasing squirrels

Dislikes: other dogs

Home Preference: Better to be placed in an apartment or condominium because she can jump most fences, and likes to chase rabbits, birds, and squirrels.

Special Requirements / Needs: Charlie needs to be the only dog in the home.

You might be interested to know: Charlie has a lot of energy. She loves to look out the window and observe everything and everyone. She is so sweet and will cuddle in your lap.

Been with MWBTR since: June 2008

Both male and female Bostons have that characteristic Boston sweetness and charm.

Starting Over: Molly (a.k.a. Chloe)

Molly (a.k.a. Chloe) - As told by her former foster parent Joanne Harrington

My first foster was a 14lb 4 year old brindle Boston by the name of Chloe. She was dumped at a shelter Christmas of 2006 and a lady who rescues Dobermans saw her and pulled her from the shelter and then called Gwen. I went and picked her up in January of 2007. She was not house broken and she ducked every time I reached down to put her leash on (you can imagine why) and

when I tried to walk her on a leash she pulled so hard I thought I had a 50lb dog on the other end.

The couple that adopted her had a Min Pin and a Toy Fox Terrier both females at home also. I told them that she was not yet house broken but was a very smart little girl. They fenced in their back yard so the girls could romp and Teresa soon had her ringing a bell to go potty and not only taught her to walk nice on a leash she soon was walking off leash without leaving

Teresa's side and riding around in a wagon behind a small tractor. She does not leave the yard unless she is told it is OK.

She is now doing agility and loving it and to top things off Teresa has a company making fancy dog collars and Molly (her new name) has her pick of dress up collars. She has since gotten a new brother in the form of a little Yorkie. She is living the life of a loved, pampered, and well behaved Boston.



Molly

Starting Over: Manny

Manny, as told by his new owners Joe DiMaggio & Lori Prektert

'Manny' (a.k.a. Duke Manfred Von Fenway) was rescued from a puppy mill after almost nine months of being trapped helpless in a small cage day and night. Manny was taken into the MWBTR foster home of the wonderfully kind, caring and generous Pat & Day Parker.

After adopting an unwanted, very ill Boston Terrier puppy named Prince (a.k.a. Little Travelin' Prince Edward Jules) from a breeder, we immediately fell in love with the breed and soon decided we wanted another Boston. Refusing to ever buy a dog from a dog store and having very few Boston breeders in our area, we turned to the internet hoping to find a miracle.

We found it in the form of the Midwest Boston Terrier Rescue site. We searched through the available dogs for adoption and immediately

fell in love with Manny's sad face and even sadder story. When Manny was rescued he was so afraid of everything and everyone, especially men. Apparently the man in charge of the puppy mill was not a nice one!

Manny had been diagnosed with a bad case of mange, a very bad case on his ears in particular. Knowing full well that adopting a dog like Manny would not be easy or instantly gratifying, we started our adoption campaign.

We first met Manny when Pat brought him over to our apartment. He cowered at even the sight of our eyes meeting him, and was very shy around our rambunctious Prince Edward, who is very tenacious and full of vigor (to say the least).

We both fell instantly in love with him and absolutely had to have him. Soon we finally were granted the amazing honor and privilege to be Manny's new daddy and mommy.

We adopted Manny on a Monday, brought him home, and tried our

best to make him comfortable. Prince was, of course, jumping all over him and so energetically ecstatic to play with him; Manny was definitely overwhelmed. Day after day Manny has gotten more and more outgoing, friendly and playful. Manny and Prince are the best of friends as well as brothers; they are inseparable.

Manny sleeps in bed with me every night, under 1,000 thread count Egyptian cotton sheets and jacquard satin bedding. Manny, no longer needing to eat his food while frightened in his cage eats out in the open next to Prince. Manny and Prince dine on organic holistic dog food.

Manny has no doubt overcome many of his fears and challenges. He is much more outgoing, affectionate and playful. Our vet has confirmed that Manny is in perfect health, his mange cleared up and he is seemingly very content.

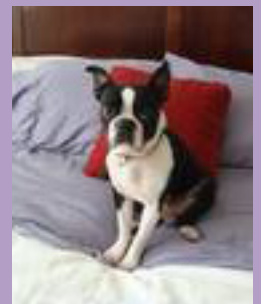
Manny used to excrete anal gland fluid whenever he felt in danger which was most of the time. Since moving to our new home, Manny

has yet to display any outward signs of that extreme reaction.

Still somewhat skittish and wary of strangers, Manny will probably always retain some special needs and attention. We are very fortunate and blessed to have Manny in our lives. It took a lot of faith and trust for the Midwest Boston Terrier Rescue to entrust Manny's future and well being with us and we are forever indebted and grateful.

Sincerely,

Joe DiMaggio & Lori Prektert



Manny



Special Section: Starting Over

New Year • New Beginnings

Starting Over: Otis

An inside view from Otis himself

I am about 10 years old, and I got lost, somehow, last winter, and was very happy to be rescued and went to stay in the nicest foster home. They took care of me and the small troubles I had while I was lost. My toenails had gotten a little long and now my feet are sorta funny looking, but they don't give me an ounce of trouble. I also have a bit of a funny-looking back, which is also no trouble at all. I also have one blue eye and one dark eye, so I am a strikingly unique fellow to look at. If I do say so myself! But I am, my new forever parents tell me, one of the handsomest BT's they have ever seen! The top picture is from our first meeting – it was love at first sight for all! Yes, it's true – there are parents out there waiting for just the right Senior BT to come into their lives. My forever parents were

a little worried about adopting a senior, like lots of people seem to feel – that I might be sick or that I might “cross the bridge” soon. Well, I don't have anything wrong with me at all, except I'm a little longer in the tooth, as they say – but along with that comes my great wisdom, and my great happiness in just being in a home and having my parents snuggle with me and love me. Because I've seen it all, I'm happy to be the sole house dog, and I only bark occasionally at the annoying squirrels that think they have the right to come on my back porch – the nerve! But the doctor says I'm just fine (I don't know him very well, having had to only see him for my initial checkup), and that my forever parents and I will be together for a long time! My Forever Mom is disabled, and I love being with her all day, keeping her quiet company, and snuggling

with her when she doesn't feel well. I know just how she feels, she just wants someone to snuggle with and love, and I'm just the dog for the job! My Forever Dad comes home from work and plays with me and then I am thrilled to let him have his snuggling time, too. My parents said that on the way home from picking me up at my wonderful foster Mom's, that by the time we got home I was already considered “one of the family.”

I hope that other people will read about me and say “WOW! A Senior dog is just exactly what this house needs!” We are beyond the puppy years of chewing and barking and training, and although we still love to play (after all, we are BT's), and I still love to go on walks with Dad, I am mostly content to just be quietly at home with my parents. I am as healthy as can be, and my



parents think I'm the best thing that has happened to them in a long, long time. We are now a happy and complete family – SENIORS RULE!



Otis

Starting Over: Tucker

Tucker, as told by his former foster parent Beth Alvis

Tucker escaped from a puppy mill in Indiana last March. He was running the streets for a few days. We are not really sure how long he was on the street. This is how Tucker came into Midwest Boston Terrier Rescue.

There was a lady that stopped at a gas station to check to see if the station was open at 1:00 in the

morning. She got out of her car and left her car door open. When she came back to her car, Tucker was sitting in her front seat. She told him that he couldn't come with her so she picked him and placed him back out on the ground. He started to whimper and shake. She said come on, and he jumped back into the car. He was dirty from head to toe and had sandy gravel in his fur. She took him to her cousin who then contacted Midwest.

Tucker was with us for about a month and half before he was adopted out. He now lives in the St Louis area. He has 1 human brother, a BT brother and sister. He is the apple of his dad's eye. His dad is in the process of going to school to become a nurse so he studies a lot. Tucker is right there with him as his dad is studying. He gets nightly walks around the neighborhood. His mom says he is the social butterfly; everyone that

meets Tucker loves him! Tucker now has a warm lamb's wool bed and people who absolutely adore him! What a great ending for a dog that escaped from a puppy mill!



About 4 percent of Bostons suffer from full or partial deafness.

Trudy



As told by Trudy's family, Michelle, Ray & Sarah Pendl

We call Trudy our "Little puppy mill reject". She was rescued and named by Denise Yoder from a puppy mill auction November 2006. She was very sick to where Denise wasn't sure if she was going to survive. People ask me why we call her a reject or why she was even in an auction as she is the cutest thing alive. I explain to them that she is not a standard Boston Terrier so they couldn't sell her to a pet store and she wasn't good for breeding being so small. Full grown Trudy weighs just over 11 pounds. She is a tiny thing with petite features. We met Trudy one cold Saturday morning early December 2006 at a "Meet-n-Greet". We went there to help out Denise. We had not even been thinking about getting another dog because we love fostering for Midwest, so logically we had enough on our plate. Something drew me to her.

Starting Over: Trudy

I mentioned jokingly to Denise that I would love to adopt her. Denise told me I could over and over and I kept saying I couldn't over and over. I didn't think I could financially afford a puppy. But before we left that day I gave in to my impulses and told Denise we would like to adopt her and she would be our family Christmas gift. I also told her I would need a few weeks to come up with the money. Two days later I called Denise and said I couldn't wait and could we pick Trudy up that Friday. So on December 22, 2006 Trudy became a member of our family. Trudy was very sick still when we took her home. She suffered from Giardia for many months. We took many trips to the vet along with many stool samples. After the first of the year I was talking to Denise about training and asked "When do you start with a puppy?" She sort of laughed at me, saying they are never too young to start. Denise gave me some basic things to work on with

Trudy and she invited me to one of Sam Malatesta's training camps that was already in progress. July 2007 was graduation and Sam told me not to expect too much - that a dog this age and size most likely won't pass. Well, Trudy showed him as passed with flying colors! Early on I felt Trudy would make a wonderful therapy dog visiting people in hospitals and nursing homes. She is so small and compact plus being a Boston made it even better. It seems wherever you go you run into someone that says they grew up with Bostons. It seems to be the older folks who are now in nursing homes. So I began looking into therapy groups. Trudy loves people. This fall I took her to an event I was doing for Midwest. A young girl maybe 10 years old with Downs Syndrome came up to me asking if she could hold the puppy we had with us. I asked her if it would be ok if she held my Trudy instead. She gleamed and was so excited. I put Trudy in her

arms and Trudy just stayed as still as she could even as awkwardly as the girl held her. The smile on that girls face nearly broke her face. I knew right then we should pursue therapy work for sure. Well Trudy is nearly 2 1/2 years old now and on December 14th, 2008 we tested with Delta Society to become a Pet Partner to do Animal Assisted Activities/Therapy. Many don't pass on the first attempt. Trudy not only passed but scored a perfect score and got a complex rating (complex rating means you can visit any facility/environment). Starting the end of January, Trudy will be visiting patients at a nearby hospital on the Pediatrics floor and the general surgery floor. The testers were amazed at Trudy and her story. It kills me to think of what would have happened to Trudy had Denise not rescued her from that auction! Trudy brightens up everyone she sees especially me! Thank you Denise and MWBTR for allowing me to adopt Trudy!



Raymond's Top Ten List

A Good Dog's Guide to New Years Resolutions

I know that the New Year is a great time to "start over". I also know that many of you pooches out there are so busy playing with your new Christmas presents, that you might not have the time to sit down and pen your New Year's Resolutions.

So... I have taken it upon myself to help you out by making a list for you. Now, please keep in mind, I am such a good dog, I really don't need to make a list for myself, but in keeping with the Christmas spirit, I thought it would be nice to lend a helping paw to those of you that might need a little help.

Most of them offer the option of filling in the blank or selecting the appropriate phrase, so that you can personalize the list to fit your... circumstance. So, enjoy and good luck in keeping your resolutions!



Raymond

1. I promise to... (circle one) stop/try real hard to stop/try really hard to not let mom catch me... eating poop.
2. I am going to let the mailman deliver the mail with no hassles.
3. I am going to stop pooping in... the closet/pop's shoe/the bathtub.
4. I will not pass gas while sitting on my mom's lap.
5. I will stop chewing on... dad's shoes/the table legs/the cat's ears.
6. I promise to stay out of... the litter box/the candy dish/trouble.
7. I will try to remember to not roll in dead things in the yard.
8. I am going to stop stashing dirty socks behind the couch.
9. I am going to try and reduce the stress in my life... (wait, if I can't chew on stuff or roll in things, how am I gonna do THAT?)
10. I am going to spend more time with family, loving on them and giving lots of BT kisses. That one should be easy...

Raymond's picture for the Top Ten article was provided by Animal Images Photography. For more information call 219-809-1332 or 219-809-1340 or visit them on the web at www.animalimagesphotography.com

- Pat Parker

Bostons are lively little dogs that enjoy almost any game or activity.

The Story of Inspiration

It is a new year, and reflects of the year past have left me determined to make 2009 a better year.

Dog rescue requires that we deal with many issues [health and behavior] concerning the foster dogs. In 2009 when you take in a foster dog, look at that dog and say a thank you prayer that he/she found rescue and is safe. Then light a candle for the ones that have been lost in the past, and those that will be lost in the future.

I would like share with you my Inspiration. This is why I keep working with rescue groups and dog training for better placement in homes, and to save lives.

My name is "Inspiration".

A family that was vacationing in the south [April 2008], was reading the local newspaper, and saw an ad that said "free to a good home". This family has friends that love Bostons and thought it would be a nice gift to bring back to them. They made arrangements to come get me, and take me back to Michigan with them. When they picked me up they told me that I wouldn't be crated like I had been for the better part of the first two years of my life. I would also have plenty of food, water and affection.

This family was strange to me, took me from my familiar surroundings and comfort zone. I was scared. They did their best to make me comfortable until I reached my new owners in Michigan. I thought things were going great as the family that came and got me had been treating me great.

In September 2008, my owner contacted a local shelter to surrender me. There was no room at the shelter, so they gave my owner the name and telephone number of a local animal rescue group. They were contacted only to be told they had no room. But, the animal rescue group knows someone at Midwest Boston Terrier Rescue, and gave Owner the telephone number to reach them, as they felt that I needed a rescue that knows about the Boston Terrier breed and could help me the best.

Owner contacted MWBTR and an owner surrender form was completed over the telephone, as Owner wanted me to find a place to go before winter set in. My owner let the MWBTR Representative know that I was: approximately 2-3 yrs old, that I had lost an eye from an unknown injury before I was brought to him in MI., that most of my 2-3 years were spent in a crate with minimal interaction with humans, and that I have not

been vetted or given any shots or heartworm treatment since coming to Michigan.

I am scared of new people and tend to be a little defensive when I am approached too quickly, or when a hand comes at my face or neck. I guess I'm not supposed to growl or snap at people. But I just want them to understand that I have been yanked on and picked up by the collar, and need to protect myself. I like my other dog friends. They understand me and comfort me. However, in September, my owner didn't feel I could be trusted with the two females I was sharing the house with. They had both just given birth to puppies, and Owner was concerned that I might hurt the puppies. For the safety of the puppies he felt I had to be tied up to a tree outside. This is where I stay in the daytime. At night my Owner brings me in and puts me in a crate on the porch.

Arrangements were made for the Boston rescue to come and get me. I heard the phone ringing. Owner wasn't there to answer it, but I heard a voice say call me and I'll come get Inspiration so he is kept safe. Unfortunately, Owner didn't follow through with calling Midwest back. As the Midwest voice was concerned for my safety, they contacted the humane society and told them what my situation was – that if Owner contacted them, wanted them to get me and they would come and get me.

It is now November, the weather has gotten colder. I sure wish I had a warm blanket and bed to lie in. The sky is getting darker and the nights longer. It is now the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and Owner has decided to contact the shelter again. The individual appointed to keep in contact with the Rescue was contacted so they could bring me into rescue. Plans were made for the shelter person and a representative of Midwest to come and get me. Yes! I know I will have a warm place to sleep soon. When the Rescue came to get me on December 5, 2008, I was so glad to see them. The funny thing is that I wasn't looking up at them when they approached me, but looking down on them. This just didn't seem right. I tried my best to dig a hole in the ground by my tree to keep warm. I was sure it would keep me warm and safe from the cold and 6-8 inches of snow that was falling. The Rescue said that I am at peace now and will be remembered forever by a lighted candle.

– Denise Yoder



The Grieving and Healing Process After the Loss of a Beloved Pet



For those that have a pet and make it a part of the family, the loss of that pet is devastating to us. Often talking to someone who understands your grief will help the healing process. I have compiled a list of groups that can help with the healing process. You may wish to call one of the pet loss hotlines listed below. There are caring people there who will listen and can help. They're only a phone call away.

530-752-3602 or 800-565-1526

Staffed by University of California-Davis veterinary students.
Website: www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/petloss/index.htm

630-325-1600

Staffed by Chicago VMA veterinarians and staffs.

970-491-4143

Staffed by Colorado State University - Argus Institute counselors.
Website: www.argusinstitute.colostate.edu/grief.htm

607-253-3932

Staffed by Cornell University veterinary students.
Website: web.vet.cornell.edu/public/petloss/

352-392-4700; then dial 1 and 4080

Staffed by Florida veterinary students.
Website: neuro.vetmed.ufl.edu/alt_med/petgrief/petloss.htm

217-244-2273 (CARE) or 877-394-2273 (CARE)

Staffed by University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine students.
Website: www.cvm.uiuc.edu/CARE/

888-ISU-PLSH (888-478-7574)

Staffed by Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine students.
Website: www.vetmed.iastate.edu/animals/petloss/

517-432-2696

Staffed by Michigan State University veterinary students.
Website: cvm.msu.edu/petloss/index.htm

614-292-1823

Staffed by Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine students.
E-Mail: petloss@osu.edu

Purdue University's Center for the Human-Animal Bond
Website: <http://www.vet.purdue.edu/chab/bond.htm>

University of Tennessee's Human Education and Responsible Ownership (H.E.R.O.)

Website: www.vet.utk.edu/hero/animalserv/petloss.htm

508-839-7966

Staffed by Tufts University veterinary students.
Website: www.tufts.edu/vet/petloss/

540-231-8038

Staffed by Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.
Website: www.vetmed.vt.edu/Organization/Clinical/petloss/petloss.html

509-335-5704

Staffed by Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine students.
Website: www.vetmed.wsu.edu/plhl/index.htm

– Denise Yoder

For more information on the many ways you can help, please visit our website at: <http://www.midwestbtrescue.org/>

 **Midwest**
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