



Guardians of Rescue (www.guardiansofrescue.org)has been very active with the generous help of our supporters. Our work over the past two years is an example of our fulfillment of our mission, and we hope it justifies your trust in us.

These are just a few examples of the type of work made possible by donations from the public:

In 2018 [we provided on-the-ground disaster relief for Hurricane Florence in the Carolinas](#), locating and extracting stranded pets and getting them to safety. With the help of some of our rescue partners, we continued to deliver pallets of pet food and warm coats for people in that area, still out of their homes due to that devastation.

As the weather becomes colder, as we do every year, we have done, and continue to do, [everything we can to get as many “outside” dogs as possible in the all the boroughs of New York either inside, or equipped with warm coats and insulated doghouses to protect them against the winter weather](#). A lot of these chained dogs are in high-crime areas, and these negotiations can get tense, but we have learned how to handle these situations, and we usually are able to make these dogs’ lives better. [We also combed Manhattan, aided by location tips from our supporters, to provide warm coats to dogs—and cats— cared for by the homeless](#). We also gave coats and gloves to the dogs’ guardians, and provided veterinary care to animals who were in need.

We used [social media](#) to educate and urge our many social media followers to report “outside” dogs in trouble, with persistence, to their local authorities, and many report doing so. We always do what we can to empower the people we help to pay this forward and show them how to also be effective advocates.

We have also, on a continuing basis, provided a source for and distributed 700 warm winter houses for feral cats in the 5 boroughs.

This January, [we spearheaded one of the largest dog rescues on record](#), by resolving a hoarding situation in GA that had gone on for 5 or 6 years with no meaningful intervention by any local agencies or other animal welfare organizations. Within weeks we succeeded in getting hundreds of German Shepherd dogs relinquished by the breeder, and organized their vetting and careful dispersal to a number of rescue organizations who are preparing them for eventual adoption.

The examinations of the dogs’ conditions are being used in determining eventual charges against the breeder, who was arrested in two counties for her years of neglect of the hundreds of dogs. We also continue to work with officials in that area to help them build an infrastructure for animal shelter and control, and will do the same in other GA counties.

We are also working with the US Inspector General on investigations of dog-fighting activity in New York, Georgia, Mississippi and Louisiana.

Guardians of Rescue got a heroic special ops armed-forces member’s rescued cat companion, Pumpkin, out of Iraq, and all the way to California to be reunited with him. We have gotten a number of veterans’ dogs to them in the US from abroad. The dogs [Halal](#), Rumpkin, Siri, and Kral have all been reunited with their veteran dads.

In addition, we have provided behavioral and companion training for these dogs, one of which is currently in process. We are also working on getting a US foster for a dog in a horrific situation in Jordan, as all dogs there are, to get him out of that hostile environment and to a safe and loving home.

Due to the ongoing needs of companion animals in the rural South in general, and the natural disasters hitting there, we have been focusing a lot of our efforts in that area, as well as in the hurricane-devastated Bahamas.

DORIAN-BAHAMAS and US

When Hurricane Dorian hit in 2019, Guardians was quickly on the ground in the storm-battered Bahamas. With countless animals in desperate need all over the Islands, we had teams on multiple islands to help and free up some of the lifelong rescuers who live there.

One is Chella Phillips, who had 98 dogs into her home to ride out the storm. Chella has been rescuing dogs in the Bahamas for many years. Guardians, working with our rescue partners, flew these 98 dogs to rescue organizations in FL. By finding homes for those dogs now in her care, Guardians freed her to rescue more dogs locally, as many people who had to leave their dogs and cats behind, and there are reports of wandering, injured dogs.

Moving the dogs was a complex process, as we had to follow many protocols, both in the Bahamas and in the States. We airlifted all 98 dogs to Florida, where rescue groups have handled their needs and adoptions. Most people don't realize just how horrible and hazardous things are for stray dogs in the Bahamas, but just know that for a stray Bahamian dog to get to the US to find a home is the luckiest break a dog can get.



While GOR was on the ground in the Bahamas, we did not forget our stateside Dorian victims. We also transported animals out of shelters in the storm-affected Carolinas and GA. We are doing everything we can to find forever homes for these animals, so that they never have to return to the shelters.

GOR facilitated the transport of 96 cats from the Marion County, SC animal shelter. This small rural shelter was preparing to shelter its animals in place, even though it is in a flood-prone area.

Fortunately, GOR worked with Joseph's Legacy in Ohio to find placement for every cat and kitten in the shelter. We immediately secured transport for the 15-hour trip.

Due to incredible community support, many of the cats have already found their forever homes. The great thing is these cats will not be going back to a shelter! While we helped many animals, including dogs in GA, this one stands out since these cats are off, so quickly, to a new start.



BROWNIE

Guardians was called in to investigate an exceptionally heinous case. A woman in Alamo, GA, found her dog, Brownie, who had recently given birth, dead in her yard with large portions of her skin removed.

We feel pretty confident that we know who did this. We're actively pursuing the case and offering a reward to help make sure the person responsible pays for this heartless crime, which left behind a litter of young orphans.

In several interviews, Alamo Chief of Police, Roger Bryant, stated that he believes Brownie's fatal injuries are the result of an animal. It is our firm belief, however, that Brownie was surgically skinned and mutilated by humans. We further believe that Brownie was abducted from her home, brutally abused, then murdered in a separate location, before being placed back in her yard, with no blood from an animal attack apparent, for her family to discover. Alamo Police Chief Roger Bryant says he is open to other explanations, and we hope he means that.



Due to the desperate need for improvement in the care of companion animals in rural GA, and in the rural South in general, we are focusing a lot of our efforts in that area.

We are working toward State policy changes, including making the State Department of Agriculture to require Counties to conform to their legal obligations to animal welfare.

Among other strategies, we are getting Counties and local organizations to be more active in placing dogs than ever before. As well as assuring safe and happy lives for the dogs who are helped there, this reduces the large number of dogs traveling north for adoption, a practice which makes it harder for dogs already in Guardians' home tri-state area to be adopted. Getting Southern dogs adopted in the South not only save their lives, but saves the lives of Northern dogs who would have been displaced by dog refugees. We are also pushing and helping some of these communities in GA to create shelters and hire Animal Control staff they've never had before.

While we deal with large numbers of dogs, it's the individuals who make up these numbers who are what it's really all about. Here are a few of their stories:

BUCKY



For one soldier and his crew stationed in Kuwait, things changed when one tiny puppy entered their camp.

Before the tiny stray made his way into the life of 21-year-old SPC Dakota J. Campbell and his crewmembers, morale was at an all-time low. Then one day, the soldiers witnessed a puppy run by their site, being chased by a larger dog. The men proceeded to scare off the dog, and the puppy scurried to hide, and got himself stuck in a cement barrier.

As the soldiers saved the puppy from near death, it didn't take long before they realized that the puppy actually had saved them. They named this little guy Bucky and he lifted their spirits, gave them hope, and helped inspire them each day. With Bucky around, they felt a sense of home.

When Campbell heads back to the states, he fears Bucky's fate will be certain death as a street dog. "Bucky may have saved us, but I can't bear to leave him behind, it's time for me to once again save him," said Campbell. "I have one dog at home, which is like my only son, and I can't wait for Bucky to meet him. It will be a dream come true for me to be able to bring Bucky to Texas."

Campbell reached out to us, and Guardians, working with our sister organization, Paws of War, made that happen. As of this report Bucky is on his way to Utah to be with Campbell's mother until her soldier son returns. Soon, Bucky and Dakota will be happily reunited in the US.

ARCTIC



GOR team members found this suffering husky living on the end of a chain, tied to a tree, in Baxley, GA, and got the owner surrender to get this very sick animal off the property. We were able to provide him with the excellent medical care that he so desperately needed. He was put in the care of a GOR medical foster, who is very experienced in the treatment of emaciation and mange. You can see the happy result.

HONEY BEAR



This small puppy was found, screaming, on an abandoned property in the city of Baxley, with her back foot severed. We took this mutilated puppy to two separate vets. Her leg has been cut off - midshaft - clean through the tibia and fibula!! There was no evidence of entanglement, entrapment, or a crush injury. She was treated for the infection and pain, placed on a special feeding plan, with strict crate rest. This little one was only about 5 weeks old. She was very weak, lethargic, and full of worms.

After months of medical care and TLC, Honey Bear made the long trek from GA to NY to find her forever family. Honey Bear is a healthy, energetic little lady, who now has a family of her own where she will never be hurt again.

PICKLES



more...

Pickles was found running scared, sick, and starving on the streets of Baxley, GA. Only after finally being caught, did we realize the extent of her medical concerns. She was only about 6 months old, and almost entirely hairless. She suffered from severe demodex mange, a secondary bacterial skin infection, and was infested with hook, whip, and tapeworms. Her nails were long, brittle, and yellow. Her paws were red, swollen, and painful. Her skin was riddled with open sores and infected lesions. Her eye was out of the socket, with an infection down to the skull.

Now, over a year later, this "Comeback Kid" has recovered fully. Although she did, sadly, lose her eye, she is a happy and grateful girl. She has house manners, is crate trained, and is excellent car rider. She weighs about 40 pounds and is heartworm negative. Her stitches are out and her wounds have all healed. She is beautiful, with a gorgeous coat. She does great with kids, and is loving to everyone. Pickles is a testimony to how far a dog can come when humans care. In this case Guardians did care and made sure Pickles had a great outcome, as she deserves.

We have also assisted local authorities in Suwannee County FL to resolve a **hoarding** case affecting nearly 100 dogs and cats who were living in cramped and substandard conditions in a mobile home. The woman responsible for this neglect has been charged with dozens of counts of animal cruelty.



Puppy mills are a national disgrace, and Guardians works to make them a thing of the past. In the meantime, we do what we can, when we can, to alleviate the suffering of animals in mills. Guardians has been conducting a puppy mill investigation in southern GA with disturbing evidence of animal neglect and horrific living conditions.



We were able to rescue approximately 70 dogs from the property, all requiring extensive medical treatment. The dogs had a long list of health issues—heavy parasite and flea infestations, untreated orthopedic injuries, painful, debilitating infections, heartworm and serious congenital defects. Guardians made sure they got the treatment they needed, and we're continuing to investigate this mill, and others.

As always, when national disasters occur, Guardians is on the ground to retrieve stranded animals from storms and floodwaters. We recently had our Urgent Response Team working in LA to help animals affected by Tropical Storm Barry. When heavy rains in the central United States caused levees to breach along the Mississippi and Arkansas Rivers, our rescue team was there to pluck stranded animals from wherever they had taken refuge. We were informed of a frightened cat, stuck on the back of a half-immersed recliner at an abandoned motel, across the flooded Arkansas river on the Oklahoma side. Local animal lovers were frantic over the trapped feline, as five days had passed without food or water, and he was showing increasing signs of distress.



We spent the whole day desperately struggling to gain passage through the closed bridge, so that we could get our boat into the water on the other side to reach the stranded cat. When all our attempts failed, our highly skilled team was forced to make a life-saving decision to go in on foot. Walking over 2 miles from their now-useless truck, they rescued the lucky cat, now named Skipper, who was taken to a local emergency animal hospital and was treated for dehydration and infection.

There are so many stories. Guardians receives calls and emails every day requesting assistance for animals in trouble. The generosity of the public has helped to allow us to say “YES” to these pleas and respond to the animals in need. We are very grateful, as are those who have been helped by our supporters’ kind gifts over the years.

Thank you for taking the time to acquaint yourself with the work of Guardians of Rescue.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Misseri".

Robert Misseri,
Founder and President, Guardians of Rescue