

## Eight Puppies Rescued From Vacant Lot

On Sunday, February 5, 2011, a group of people from the Georgia SPCA assisted a longtime volunteer to rescue 8 puppies from a vacant lot off of Moreland Avenue, near 285. The rescue was nothing short of a miracle. The eight puppies were in a make shift tunnel in the middle of an old dilapidated house. The only thing left of the house is the foundation and chimney. It has been used as a dumping ground for trash. There looks to be years' worth of old mattresses, TV's, wood, and just about anything you can imagine. The puppies had to be dug out of a hole in what was once the foundation of the house.

The story started some time ago when a very kind person started feeding three stray dogs she noticed on her way to work, at a local trucking company. Kathy Hemmings is one of those people who do more than just feel sorry for animals she sees living on the streets. A few months ago she realized that two of the dogs she has been feeding were pregnant. Once she realized that the dogs had given birth, she spent more time trying to see where the puppies were located. She was willing to take the pups and socialize them so they would not meet the same fate as their mothers.

She set up a doghouse for them so the mothers would have a warm place to take the puppies. She was able to get five of the puppies out around four days ago, but she knew there were more pups to be gotten. After doing some searching, she realized the rest of the pups were in the remains of the house. On Sunday, she reached out to the Georgia SPCA to get some assistance in removing the rest of the puppies. She thought there were probably at least four more pups that needed her help.

Kathy and four of the Georgia SPCA staff met on Sunday, and loaded the van with food, crates and anything we thought we might need. When we got to the rescue site, we saw several puppies. The adult dogs are not tame, so they would not get close to us when we arrived at the site. After some searching, we realized that we were going to have to dig the puppies out of the tunnel they had been living in. After several hours of work, we were able to rescue eight beautiful four or five week old puppies. This was in addition to the five Kathy had already been able to take. All of the pups were severely flea and tick infested, but after a bath and some tender love and care, they were ready to go to their foster homes.

Kathy Hemmings is one of the best volunteers the Georgia SPCA has, but she is also much more than that. She is the kind of person who sees a problem, and does not turn her head. She dives in and does something about it. I realized yesterday just how committed Kathy is to dogs and cats. The world would be a better place if we had more people like Kathy Hemmings in every walk of life.

February is national Spay/Neuter month, and thanks to the commitment of this very kind person, we now have eight less animals that will reproduce on the streets. They will be fostered for several weeks, spay or neutered, vaccinated and put up for adoption. I am attaching photos that were taken at the rescue, and also pictures of the animals with their fosters. It was heartwarming to see a group of people come together for the benefit of these animals. It was a very good day in what sometimes seems like a thankless struggle to make the life of companion animals better in our state.

If you have any questions about spay/neuter month, or the above story, please feel free to contact Jane Stewart, Executive Director, Georgia SPCA. Cell phone 678-457-7288, email [stewart426@bellsouth.net](mailto:stewart426@bellsouth.net). You can also check out the work we do on our website, [www.georgiaspca.org](http://www.georgiaspca.org).

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