



# DOLLY'S TRIBUTE

Issue 1

December 2007

## Clumbers in Need

### A Clumber Spaniel Named Dolly

This is the story how we chose the name of the newsletter for "Clumbers in Need".



Dolly was a very special rescue. She was born in Czechoslovakia and was sold to the US at an auction to an Amish puppy miller where she lived four years having puppies for people who cared nothing about her well being.

In March of 2007 she was sold again at auction. Dolly was bought with three other Clumbers by a backyard breeder and lived there until June 2007 when the person who bought them decided breeding Clumbers was more work than she bargained for so she decided to sell them. I found out that there were four adult Clumbers for sale and after contacting the owner, found out one was Dolly, the dam to my Roofus, a sister to her, a sire to one of the previous rescues, and a Swedish Clumber, and ended up buying all four.

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, my husband and son arrived home with them after picking them up in Oklahoma. I will never forget that day as I had such a good feeling knowing that Dolly, like Roofus, would have a chance at a "real" life. All four of them greeted me hesitantly as they weren't sure what was in

store for them and all had the lost look that so many rescues have.

The beginning of July was spent grooming them and them getting adjusted to their new way of life and their new home. Each one was taken to the vet and given an exam and all seemed healthy with only minor problems. All were settling in and beginning to feel comfortable with me with the exception of Dolly and I noticed she was standoffish and not as friendly as the others.

By the middle of July, all four were doing well and I was happy with their progress. One evening I was combing the mats out of Dolly's coat when I noticed her belly looked awfully big, more so than usual. Having had so many litters, her belly dug the ground anyway but I couldn't help but notice a difference. The next day I made an appointment with the vet and took her in. Upon examining her he felt sure she was pregnant but wanted to do an x-ray. The x-ray showed without a doubt that she was pregnant and after looking at the x-ray he told me she had about a week. I asked him if we could abort the puppies as I didn't have any desire to put her through another litter, but the vet said she was too far along and he wouldn't recommend it.

The next week was spent preparing for the arrival of her puppies with us sleeping together in a kiddie pool and me reading to her every night. I'd never been around a pregnant female and I didn't have a clue what to do or what to expect and had heard many horror stories about Clumbers that don't whelp naturally so I was a bit concerned.

We bonded that week and she

became my shadow and when I couldn't be with her, my daughter Krystal, or my husband Edward would "baby-sit" her, but according to them, she was not happy until I returned and would sit near the door waiting and watching for me.

The last weekend of July came and Dolly seemed to be preparing to "whelp" and I thought according to what everyone had told me, it was time but the weekend came and went without puppies. I called the vet and he told me to bring her in. After examining her he told me if she hadn't had the puppies by the next day, he would try to induce labor and if that didn't work, he would do a c-section.

After another night without puppies, I had Dolly there as soon as they opened and told the vet I didn't want to try to induce labor but instead go ahead with the c-section. Dolly just didn't seem herself and I was worried about her. The c-section seemed to take forever and as hard as I tried, I could not shake the terrible feeling I had. I kept telling myself that I was just getting worked up and that things would be fine but little did I know that my fears would soon become reality.

I remember very little about what happened next but I do remember hearing that Dolly didn't make it. The vet said she made it through the c-section but then crashed during the spaying. He told me there were eleven puppies, one of which was a water puppy and was stillborn but that there were ten left. I was

completely and totally in shock. I had made a promise to Dolly that I wouldn't let anything happen to her and that I would keep her safe. I had kept none of these promises and I felt the weight of letting her down.

The entire staff at the vet's office was working trying to save the puppies but all I cared about was taking Dolly home. She was my main concern as she had always been. I'd never bargained for pups and I'm ashamed to say nor did I want them. It was Dolly who I'd rescued and had wanted to give a second chance and I failed her. The guilt was more than I can describe and it would take many weeks before the weight felt any less.

We took Dolly home that day and buried her with the pup that didn't make it and then it was time to figure out what to do with the others. My only excuse is that I was in shock from losing Dolly that I couldn't focus on the puppies and took them to a woman in Old Fort, NC who specializes in newborns as I felt she was their only chance. During the night she lost two and I hardly slept that night. Not only was I grieving for Dolly, I apparently came back to my senses and realized that Dolly would have wanted me to take care of her pups, not a stranger.

I can't describe the closeness I felt to her and the deepness of the love that grew in such a short time. Dolly was





## Dolly's Story Continued...

and still is embedded in my heart. If there was one thing she knew before she left this world, it was that she was loved. I never knew that the time I spent with her or the things I'd done for her would be the last things she'd ever know.

She was transformed the last week of her life, she was so happy and carefree and although I will never know what went wrong or was it indeed something I did or didn't do; in my heart I know that I tried my best and that no one felt or feels the loss of her like I do. There's not a single day that goes by that I don't think of her or miss her but I have the memories of that week, a week that was spent with a Clumber named Dolly, a true Clumber angel!



In memory of Sugar Doll Surama Z Rajslu - February 3, 2003 - August 1, 2007

*"A Clumber named Dolly, a true Clumber Angel"*

## Dolly's Babies (The Dollykins)

Dolly's babies were born on Wednesday, August 1, 2007.

My daughter Krystal took a leave of absence from work and I began working part time trying to do everything possible to see that the Dollykins would make it but over a period of several weeks, we would lose all of them but four; two boys and two girls.

Krystal and I tried every type nipple and bottle made but yet they weren't interested in nursing. We even found a surrogate hound dog named Rose that had just weaned a litter, but even then they weren't anxious to eat. To make a bad situation worse, two days after bringing in Rose, we learned that all of her pups had died but one. It seemed all odds were against us and after many failed attempts at getting them to eat, we decided to tube feed.

We were met with one obstacle after another and couldn't get a break. They would seem to

make some progress and then something else would go wrong. It was frustrating and heart-breaking to say the least. We tried different formulas but nothing seemed to agree with them. Through trial and error, "goat's milk" was the life saver.

We were at the vet's office more times than I can remember or on the phone with people trying to get some advice on what to do and there were times when we were sure they weren't meant to be. Tensions were high and frustrations ran deep but we never gave up and even though we lost all but four; the four we managed to save will always have a special place in our hearts.

After weeks of a horrendous roller coaster ride, the Dollykins are happy and healthy. The four are known as Dozer full of Promise, Worthy, Freedom Grace and Karma. Dozer, Freedom Grace and Karma will live out their days at



McLendon Land and Worthy will live with Krystal visiting often.

I can't describe the joy I feel when I look at them as we came so close to losing them. These four are tough as is evident being they had to fight every inch of the way just to survive. I get teary eyed a lot these days; the tears are mostly tears of gratitude but some are out of sadness, sadness for losing Dolly and for those we couldn't save.

There are so many people who offered help that it is impossible to thank all of you individually but there are a few that I would like to acknowledge as without them, I doubt the outcome would have been what it is. A big "thanks" to all of you who stood by us through the ups and downs!

My husband Edward, my daughter Krystal, Martha Wright, Members of Clumbers in Need yahoo group, with a special thanks to Aunt Sally who kept Krystal company during long days and nights, Phyllis Potterfield, Lynn Heber, Robin Leftwich, Aussie Lyn Durrington, Maureen Brohman, Cathy Herbert, Adrienne Guss, Martha Frost, June Warren, Moira Simmonds, Pam Bratton, Carole Dennis, Marge Gebo, Zuzana Navelkova, Andrea Vertesi, Donna Starr, Dr. Roe Froman, Kathy McGriff, Norma Simpson, John & Naiza Woodlief

Dr. Mark Wysocki, Dr. Coin and staff at Avery's Creek Pet Hospital

Dr. Doug Elledge and staff at Redwood Animal Hospital

Roy J Rector with Hayes & Lunsford

Steve Poplaski with Furever Friends

And many others who offered advice or a much needed kind word



# HAPPY ENDINGS

## Heidi's Story

Heidi came from a backyard breeder and had always lived in an outside kennel. She came to me not knowing what it was like to have a family or live inside. She was nervous at first and a little weary about her new environment but she adjusted rather quickly and liked her new way of life. She was the first Clumber to find a new home.

The family who adopted Heidi was actually interested in Hank but being they had a toddler, I wanted to be sure Hank was a good fit so I took both him and Heidi to pet adoption to see how they did with children. I was quite surprised to see that Hank wasn't so sure about them at all and hid under the table most the day. Heidi on the other hand, seemed to

like all the excitement and she just took everything in.

So now Heidi lives like a queen with her new mom and dad and little brother, Anderson in Charlotte, NC.

She enjoys taking walks around the neighborhood and loves to sunbath at the sliding glass doors.

It does my heart good every time I look at this picture as this is what a Clumber's life should be!



## Hank's Story

Hank also came from a backyard breeder and had always lived in an outside kennel. He came to me not knowing much of anything but it didn't take him long to figure out he liked inside living and being part of a family. He was the second Clumber to find a new home.

The couple who adopted Hank have several furkids so Hank isn't an only child. He lives with his new mom and dad on 40 acres in Mississippi and is spoiled beyond belief. On the "farm" where he lives, he gets to see all kinds of wildlife.

Hank has a new brother named Ziggy that he follows around everywhere and the two of them are like a double shadow of their mom!

Words cannot express the happiness I feel for Hank in finding a new family who will love him as much as I did.

Hank (far back with toy) and his new siblings



**Hank's new mom wrote:**

**"I got my first Clumber kiss full of slobber and Hank is getting comfortable with his new home.**

**He was the first one to get back to the bed so he could curl up; he slept there all night and did not want to get up this morning.**



Worthy



Freedom Grace



Dozer



Karma



### Clumbers in Need Clumber Spaniel Rescue



“Clumbers in Need” is a rescue group to help unfortunate Clumbers find “forever homes”.

**A Message from Dozer through Carole Dennis the Pet Communicator**  
[www.voicesfortheanimals.com](http://www.voicesfortheanimals.com)

Dozer, what do you feel your life’s purpose is?



Oh, that’s easy! I am going to journey into people’s lives. My adventures will take me where I need to go. I will make an impression and show them how Love heals. Show how imperfections are misconceptions and that all God’s creatures are perfect. Dogs love everyone they meet and everyone loves dogs. Especially cute ones like me!

I intend to bring smiles and arouse curiosity in Humans about who I am. My personality is such that people who interact with me will forget that I am “just a dog”! I will leave such an impression that they will have conversations about me and who I am! They will ask me questions out loud in conversational tone and not just give commands or see if I can do tricks.

I have a strong spirit inside me and I know exactly what I need to do. I will act independently and strike out on my own. My adventures will bring

*Kim Smith McLendon started “Clumbers in Need” after rescuing a male Clumber that had spent five years wasting away in a kennel. He stole her heart, and her love and admiration for the breed grew by leaps and bounds.*

*Since then Kim has rescued twelve Clumber Spaniels, fulfilling a mission to find and place Clumbers in the homes they deserve, focusing on what is best for the Clumbers.*

*“We want to give them a chance to know the security of a loving family regardless of their unlucky beginnings”.*

**If interested in adopting or meeting a Clumber, please contact “Clumbers in Need”**

**Kim Smith McLendon**  
[clumbersinneed@yahoo.com](mailto:clumbersinneed@yahoo.com)  
**(828) 230-2499**

## Clumber of the Month

My name is Gretchen and I was born on April 30, 2006. I am very sweet, outgoing once I get to know you, crate trained, and I get along well with other dogs. Cats interest me a great deal but although I like to sniff them, I’d never try to hurt one. I will make a great companion and will like nothing better than getting lots of petting. I was very nervous when I first came to live with my foster mom

but now I am doing a lot better. I still get nervous at times and I dance around and make puddles but other than that, I feel I have come a long way. I have lots of energy and can probably use a new owner who is quite active. Going on hikes or long walks is something I love to do.

I want to be an inside companion and treated as a family member allowing me to enjoy all the comforts my family does (well maybe not all but you know what I mean)!

people together. But at the end of the day, when my job is complete, I will want to be in the company of dogs. I may end up with a reputation of being mischievous but remember it’s mischief with a purpose so pay close attention when you think I’m being naughty. I really like people, I really like walks and talks. Please allow me to establish my routine of whom I’d like to visit. People might not “hear” it but I will be talking to them when I visit just the same..... Dozer

