

## A look back at 2008 - A look ahead to 2009

As odd as it feels we're at the end of yet another year. It honestly seems like the years are going by at an ever-increasing pace. Looking back at the past year we are amazed at some of the '*rescues*' that have taken place.

I'm sure everyone remembers Trish, we found her in a shelter – a stray, unwanted, and in dire need of medical care. The shelter contacted us because they too saw the beauty beneath the entire '*shelter funk*'. Trish had some issues with her ears, her coat, and an assortment of other problems. But, by far her most life threatening issue was the cancer in her mouth.

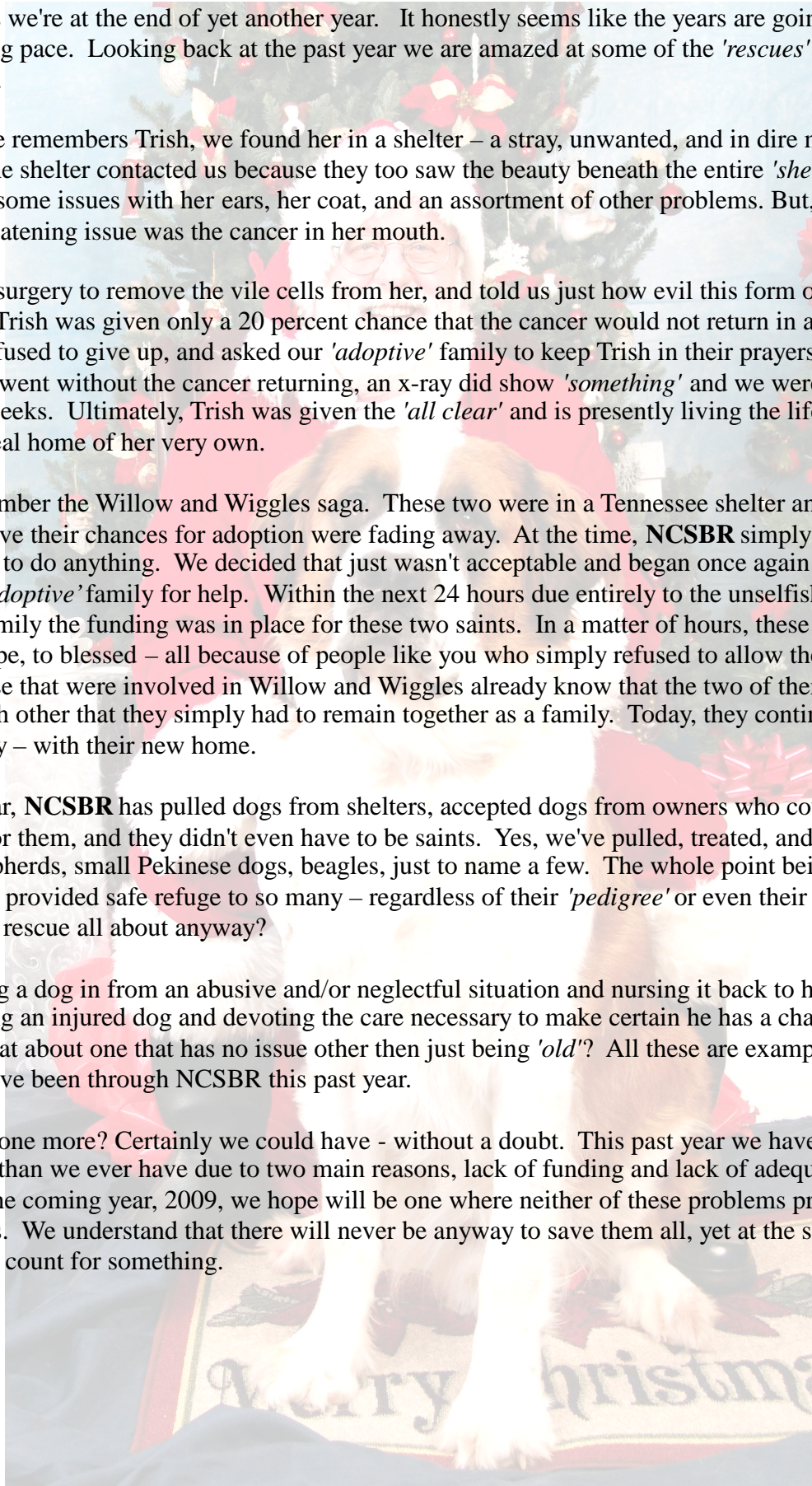
Our vets did the surgery to remove the vile cells from her, and told us just how evil this form of cancer was. Our sweet Trish was given only a 20 percent chance that the cancer would not return in a matter of weeks. We refused to give up, and asked our '*adoptive*' family to keep Trish in their prayers. Two weeks came and went without the cancer returning, an x-ray did show '*something*' and we were worried for a few more weeks. Ultimately, Trish was given the '*all clear*' and is presently living the life she so deserves – in a real home of her very own.


Maybe you remember the Willow and Wiggles saga. These two were in a Tennessee shelter and being heartworm positive their chances for adoption were fading away. At the time, **NCSBR** simply did not have the funding to do anything. We decided that just wasn't acceptable and began once again contacting our '*adoptive*' family for help. Within the next 24 hours due entirely to the unselfish acts of our '*adoptive*' family the funding was in place for these two saints. In a matter of hours, these two went from no hope, to blessed – all because of people like you who simply refused to allow the worst to happen. Those that were involved in Willow and Wiggles already know that the two of them were so bonded to each other that they simply had to remain together as a family. Today, they continue to live as one family – with their new home.

Over the past year, **NCSBR** has pulled dogs from shelters, accepted dogs from owners who could no longer provide for them, and they didn't even have to be saints. Yes, we've pulled, treated, and placed big German Shepherds, small Pekinese dogs, beagles, just to name a few. The whole point being, together we have provided safe refuge to so many – regardless of their '*pedigree*' or even their size. After all, what is rescue all about anyway?

Could it be taking a dog in from an abusive and/or neglectful situation and nursing it back to health? Or possibly taking an injured dog and devoting the care necessary to make certain he has a chance at a normal life? What about one that has no issue other than just being '*old*'? All these are examples of the very dogs that have been through **NCSBR** this past year.

Could we have done more? Certainly we could have - without a doubt. This past year we have turned away more dogs than we ever have due to two main reasons, lack of funding and lack of adequate foster homes. The coming year, 2009, we hope will be one where neither of these problems prevents us from saving dogs. We understand that there will never be anyway to save them all, yet at the same time every one should count for something.





We've seen a lot of things take place this past year that have been nothing short of miraculous – we've seen dogs enter rescue as abandoned, abused, neglected, flea and tick infested, broken bones, heartworm and other parasite infested, just to name a very few, but together we have taken these and transformed them into members of a thriving home. Further providing us with the strength to carry on in almost impossible odds.

This past year we have witnessed first hand the miracles possible when the power of our *'adoptive'* family come together for a cause. What looks like a hopeless case, is nothing more than a small bump in the road of life. Our *'adoptive'* family has through their collective monetary donations and unselfish donations of time and even opening their homes to a rescue dog made all the difference for so many.

What is the common thread to all these stories - the *'adoptive'* family? You are part of that family, a group that has bound together for a common cause, the betterment of the orphaned saints and honorary saints in our region. Without you and your support the chances of **NCSBR** achieving any real success is minimal at best. Sadly, this past year due to relocations and other reasons, we are down to a skeletal crew of foster homes. Without replacing some of these homes, we simply cannot attempt to help Saints in the volume of the past few years. The need for foster homes is urgent.

We are urging you to please consider joining **NCSBR** in our **Foster Family Program**. For every foster home we are able to save that *'one more'* that would have otherwise been condemned to living in a shelter waiting on an adoption that statistically most likely will never occur. The sad truth is that a large breed dog stands very little chance of ever coming out of a shelter environment. Together **NCSBR** and our *'adoptive'* family have placed an impressive dent in these statistics, but not nearly enough. For more information about the **NCSBR Foster Family Program** please see our website or send an email to [saint\\_rescue@yahoo.com](mailto:saint_rescue@yahoo.com)

In this time of this joyous season, please remember those who simply cannot defend themselves, the old, the sickly, the abused, neglected, abandoned, and yes, even the beloved family pet that for so many reasons their family simply can no longer provide for. Your donation can and does truly make the world a better place, one saint at a time.

We wish the best to each and every one of our *'adoptive'* families. We may not live under the same roof, and some of us have never had the pleasure of actually meeting face to face, but we are all family. Without you, **NCSBR** simply could not function.

**May God bless you and your family in the coming year.  
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a great 2009!**

NC Saint Bernard Rescue  
<http://ncsaintrescue.petfinder.com>

*Making the world a better place,  
one Saint at a time.*