

# Dogs Suspected Of Neglect Removed From Local Home

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BY: ELIZABETH BUSH

## Dogs suspected of neglect removed from local home

When a volunteer with Animal Rescue and Relief spotted a dog rummaging through trash on the side of Clements Ferry Road last week, she was concerned the canine might get hit by a \*\*\*image1\*\*\*car. When she stopped to get the dog out of harmâ€™s way, she discovered there was much more at stake. The animal, a Border Collie mix, appeared to be frightened and malnourished.

"Our volunteer called us and we agreed to take the dog into our rescue program," said Michelle Reid, executive director of Animal Rescue and Relief, Inc. "In doing an evaluation of her, we realized that the dog needed medical attention and that her problems were more severe than just being filthy, covered in fleas and ticks, and underweight."

An examination by veterinarians revealed that the animal had given birth, perhaps just days earlier, and that she had a potentially fatal infection. Reidâ€™s team opted to give the dog a strong dose of antibiotics, as opposed to surgery.

"We chose the (antibiotics) because we were concerned that her puppies would surely die with the care of their mother, and we thought that, if given the chance, she might lead us to them," added Reid.

The next day, Reid and other volunteers brought the dog back to the area in which she was found. With a police escort, they followed the dog through woods and brush alongside Clements Ferry Road onto the property of a private residence. There, they made more disturbing discoveries, said Reid.

"We immediately saw a dog chained to a car without food or water, an emaciated dog chained to a slab of pavement, and a puppy, under a vehicle, lying in a hole," she added. "The female Border Collie led us on to a makeshift dog house. When we looked inside, the smell was disgusting. There were feces everywhere and puppies â€“ nine in all -- were scattered about in the filth."

According to Reid, police put in a call to Berkeley Countyâ€™s Animal Control office to report the conditions they found and to get permission to remove the animals from the property.

"We explained that the puppies were very sick and would probably not make it through the night and that the dogs needed immediate medical attention," said Reid. "The police called the sheriff out and hours later the okay was given to remove the animals. The sheriff agreed that the animals were in very poor condition and needed urgent help."

All of the dogs have now been evaluated by a veterinarian. The mother is taking care of her puppies (all anemic when found), but still needs surgery. One of the dogs is heartworm positive. Another has a hip that is dislocated and needs surgery. All were covered in ticks, in need of food and water, and full of parasites, said Reid.

"The dogs are now in the care of foster homes and a boarding facility," she added. "They will all eventually need homes. In the meantime, they need lots of love."

Animal Rescue & Relief, Inc. is asking for the communityâ€™s help to care for the animals. Monetary donations for supplies and medical care can be dropped off at Luciaâ€™s Premium Pets on Daniel Island or mailed to Animal Rescue & Relief, Inc., PO Box 13477, Charleston, SC 29422.

"Animal Rescue & Relief encourages people to speak up when they see animals in neglectful situations," said Reid. "Animals in these conditions are often overlooked, or it is assumed that someone else will take the responsibility to call for help. This can lead to animals suffering for longer periods of time, or worse, never getting the help they need."

Foster homes, and later adoptive homes, will also be needed for the animals recovered from the Clements Ferry Road area rescue. If interested, please email Reid at [arrinc@yahoo.com](mailto:arrinc@yahoo.com).

The volunteer who discovered the dog asked not to be identified in the paper.