

# Local couple, rescued dog find mutual healing

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

A simple newspaper photo was the bridge that spanned the need of a German Shepherd for medical care and the grieving hearts of a local couple that needed healing.

Joanne and Doug Eddy said that once a photo of a German Shepherd named Princess appeared in the Chowan Herald as part of a regular Pet of the Week feature by Mary Jo Sellers, their phone started to ring off the hook.

"People were calling to ask us if we knew there was a German Shepherd at the shelter (Tri-County Shelter and Adoption Center in Tyner) that needed a home," Joanne Eddy recalled. "But I didn't know if I was ready."

She and her husband were still mourning the loss of their dog, Raen, a German Shepherd whose name was pronounced "Rain," who was, they said, "our best friend."

Doug Eddy said that when he was recovering from back surgery, Raen sensed he needed comforting and would jump up on the bed and snuggle up with him back to back to keep him company.



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Joanne Eddy plays with her German Shepherd, Nessa, in the backyard of her home in Edenton. Eddy and her husband adopted Nessa from the shelter.

information about Princess from shelter manager Dana Goheen — the dog had heartworms.

Since shelter policies prohibited any dog with heartworms from being adopted before being spayed or neutered, the couple felt they were faced with a concern that the dog might not survive that surgery because of the strain it would put on her heart, a concern shared by their veterinarian.

Goheen said the policy in place at the shelter is designed to make sure that dogs with heartworms have the best chance for survival, which is why these dogs are kept at the shelter until they have been successfully treated. Part of the treatment requires that the dog be kept as still and quiet as possible, a goal more easily carried out on an animal that has been altered and won't be going into heat, she said.

After considering the situation, the Eddys decided to explore other

options, including having the dog — whom they had renamed Nessa — released to an animal rescue group that would take her without being spayed and then the couple could adopt her from that group. A recommendation from an employee at their son's office in Raleigh helped them make contact with a rescue group called CAMP Rescue that is dedicated to helping all breeds of dog find loving homes.

Goheen agreed to transfer ownership of Nessa to the rescue group at the Eddys' request.

A notation on the dog's adoption form from CAMP Rescue reads, "Due to health considerations Princess will not be altered until after her heartworm treatment is complete. Once this has been done, Adopter will have her altered and provide proof of altering to CR."

After spending about \$1,200 on treatments necessary to save Nessa's life and months of caring for her as she held on to life, the Eddys said they are glad they made the choice to adopt her in spite of her medical condition. Today she is a happy, healthy and much loved family pet.

Doug said that although

her recovery was grueling, the two veterinarians involved in her care — Dr. Chris Ford from Chowan Animal Hospital and a fellow vet from Gates County — were "amazing."

Joanne Eddy said that having Nessa in their lives has helped heal their hearts from the loss of their beloved Raen. And Nessa has received a special benefit as well, she said.

"We gave her the gift of hope," she said. "Without us there would have been a puppy that wouldn't have had a chance at life at all."

Goheen said that she was glad Nessa's story has a happy ending.

"I think she's ended up in a great home," she said. "I have no doubt that Joanne has provided her with excellent care."

And Colleen Gerow, director of client services for the rescue group, also expressed happiness at the positive outcome.

"I am very excited for you and Miss Princess! It's always a good day when a rescue baby finds a forever home!! I know sometimes it can be challenging rehabbing a rescue baby, but they are always worth it in the end!" she wrote in an email to Joanne Eddy.

## NCEast to meet with regional county leaders

BY WILLIAM F. WEST  
The Daily Advance

Leaders of eastern North Carolina's enlarged 26-county business recruitment agency were set to meet with area county managers and economic developers this week for the first time since last month's announced merger of two regional economic development agencies.

The closed-door meeting was scheduled for Tuesday in Edenton. The meeting — scheduled to be underway as the Chowan Herald was going to press — was designed to give the NCEast Alliance an opportunity to introduce itself and discuss its past economic development efforts with officials formerly represented by North Carolina's Northeast Alliance. NCEast President John Chaffee said last week.

"From our standpoint, what we want them to have a better understanding about is how we as the NCEast Alliance go about economic development," he said.

NCEast also wants to hear from "the players of northeastern North Carolina" about ways the enlarged economic development agency can proceed as it works to recruit business and industry, enhance tourism and boost job creation.

NCEast, which formerly served 11 counties, formally merged with the 15-county Northeast Alliance last week after the two groups signed a memorandum of understanding last month.

Both alliances previously had been part of a state-funded system of regional economic development partnerships. After North Carolina's Republican-led government decided to privatize business and industrial recruiting, however, state financial support was withdrawn and the partnerships were required to raise private funding.

Northeast Alliance officials said they elected to join NCEast after deciding they couldn't raise enough private funding on their own to keep the agency sustainable. The merger means

NCEast now serves an area stretching from the fringes of the Research Triangle and the Interstate 95 corridor east to the Outer Banks.

The terms of the merger specify that the former Northeast Alliance's 15 counties, including Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck, Chowan and Perquimans, will be allowed to participate in the enlarged NCEast for free for at least four and a half years.

According to Chaffee, after the four and a half year period, former Northeast counties wishing to continue participating in NCEast will have to pay an annual fee of 30 cents per capita. That means Pasquotank, which has a population of 40,000, would pay approximately \$12,000 a year to remain a part of NCEast. Currituck, which has a population of 24,396, would pay more than \$7,000 annually to remain part of NCEast. Camden, with a population of 10,187, would pay more than \$3,000 a year to remain an NCEast member.

Camden County Man-

ager Mike Renshaw said the annual fee to remain an NCEast member after four and a half years would probably be at the top of his list of questions for NCEast leaders at Tuesday's meeting. The meeting, which was not open to the public, was to be held at the Edenton Hampton Inn at 10 a.m.

Renshaw said he's generally optimistic about Camden's chance to participate in the enlarged economic development agency.

"More resources and more assets and more knowledge, applied to further encouraging economic development in northeastern North Carolina, is going to be beneficial to the whole region," he said.

Pasquotank Manager Rodney Bunch said his county looks forward to working with NCEast over the next four and a half years. But it's too early to say if the county will pay for membership after then, he said.

"Four and a half years is too far for me to say what we'll do then," he said.

Currituck Manager Dan

Scanlon said his county likely would take a wait-and-see approach on remaining an NCEast member after four and a half years. He said a lot would depend on what the new, enlarged agency accomplishes. It's also too early to say how NCEast will benefit Currituck or northeastern North Carolina, he said.

"We'll just have to see how this new arrangement works as they implement it," Scanlon said.

The Currituck manager did express concern that elected officials in the northeast did not get to have a say in the NCEast-Northeast Alliance merger.

"I feel the elected officials should have been a part of this process," Scanlon said.

Asked about county officials' lack of involvement in the merger, Chaffee declined comment, saying only "that water has already passed over the dam." He said NCEast's plan going forward is to work closely with officials in the region formerly served by the Northeast Alliance.

Vann Rogerson, formerly the Northeast Alliance's president and now an executive vice president with NCEast, said the merger's terms were purposefully structured to give Northeast counties time to see if the new arrangement works for them.

"We get to try this thing out together and see where we go," he said. "We're trying to be fair by just making sure that the counties got to participate for free."

Rogerson maintains the merger offers great opportunities for the former Northeast counties.

He noted NCEast's service territory now stretches from areas just south of Virginia's Hampton Roads area to the Port of Morehead City and includes the Coast Guard Base in Elizabeth City and Marine Corps' installations at Cherry Point and Jacksonville.

"We are marrying up some resources that we never had before," he said. "There's a lot of opportunity for us to get a fresh look at how we do things."

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## Sponsorship dollars available for youth

From staff reports

Youth groups, high school groups and K-12 school groups within a 50-mile radius of Edenton have until Dec. 31 to earn up to \$1,000 in cash funding or custom apparel through the "Better Community Connections" sponsorship program from U.S. Cellular and Pear. Groups, from youth or high school sports teams to academic clubs and music groups, can

utilize their social networks to complete online tasks to earn sponsorship dollars for the items they need most. It's completely free.

"This is such an amazing opportunity for Edenton-area youth and school groups to utilize on traveling, paying for equipment or event expenses, custom apparel or whatever they might need," said Jared Golden, Pear's co-founder. "Pear is designed to bring two organizations to-

gether — those seeking funding and those seeking groups to sponsor. This 'Better Community Connections' sponsorship is a win-win for both parties and makes it easy for youth and school groups to earn funding."

Visit [www.pearup.com/us-cellularsponsors](http://www.pearup.com/us-cellularsponsors) to create a sponsorship page, and then invite friends, family and others to join. Once a sponsorship page is created, the group has 10 days to earn up to \$1,000 toward a donation or custom apparel. The more people who support the page and interact with U.S. Cellular on the site, the more mon-

ey the group earns. Groups can earn points by completing simple online tasks, like visiting U.S. Cellular's website, subscribing to an email list, liking U.S. Cellular on Facebook or answering a survey. There is no purchase necessary to participate.

Adult groups will be allowed to participate as long as they are in support of a youth or school purpose, including Parent-Teacher Associations, booster clubs and similar groups.

For more information about Pear or the sponsorship, visit [www.pearup.com/uscellularsponsors](http://www.pearup.com/uscellularsponsors).



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