

# HALLIE HILL UPDATE



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## Axel's Story



The story of Axel is unlike any other. One cold winter day about eight years ago as I drove to Hallie Hill I noticed a square wooden box of some size on the public road

near our entrance. One side was partially closed and I glimpsed a movement in the box—it was strange. When I reached the sanctuary, I called upon two of the staff to return to the mysterious box with me. Standing by that old box was a very sad and extremely undernourished dog. He was large and black with every rib showing. His eyes were full of fear, but overcoming that fear was great courage and determination. Obviously, he had been abandoned there on the road with his box. There was no being friendly with this old fellow and his ferocity was relentless. After a long while, it dawned on us. The box represented his home and he was defending it with all his might. This was all he had—his only possession and he was not about to let it go.

After rethinking the situation, we knew we had to devise a plan. We would have to recover the box, but he would not let us near it. The problem was solved by standing on the back of

## *Dog of the Quarter— Bowser*

Bowser is an 8 month old hound mix. He is a handsome dog who is house-trained, leash-trained, and knows how to sit on command. He has a magnetic personality and would benefit greatly from being part of a private home and loving family.

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the truck and lassoing “his only possession”. As we slowly pulled the box down the road, he followed—cautiously but with great courage. When we reached Hallie Hill, we eased the truck into a vacant pen--- he followed. We released the rope and slowly drove the truck out of the pen---we closed the gate. He was safe! With him was his box!

After several days, he had thoroughly inspected and accepted occupancy in the nice big dog house we had there in the pen. In it was a warm bed, a heat lamp, fresh water and good food. Soon he was coming to the fence for hugs and treats. The old box “his Home” remained in his pen for many years. No one had the heart to take it away. It belonged to him—It was his and his alone—and only when time and weather transformed it into rubble was it removed. In time, we found the perfect roommate for Axel and today he is one of the happiest members of the Hallie Hill family (maybe a tad overweight!).

This is only one of many, but hopefully this memory of Axel's rescue will give you a glimpse into the world of Hallie Hill. - HMB



## Hound Haven

Visitors often notice that out of the many different breeds of dogs at Hallie Hill, the hunting hounds are among the most numerous. Currently 21 of our dogs are “hunting hounds” and that count does not include Labrador retrievers.

Walkers, Foxhounds, Coonhounds and Beagles have always been used by hunters to pursue the native wildlife. Unfortunately, many of these same dogs are wandering up to Hallie Hill in terrible physical condition. The hunting dogs we take in are usually underweight due to inadequate amounts of food and intestinal parasites. Most have skin infections from unsanitary living

conditions and no medical care. Even as we are saddened by the plight of so many of these beautiful creatures who are suffering at the hands of men, we are grateful that we have been able to rescue the ones we have. We are dedicated to ensuring that once these dogs enter our gates, they receive the best of care and enjoy a good life from that day forward.



Izzy & Tizzy



Mango



Jay

## Boy Scouts Visit Hallie Hill



*Wil Divito (in the red shorts) along with his mother, sister, troop leader, fellow Boy Scouts, and Peaches.*

Saturday morning most teenage boys sleep late or watch cartoons on a comfortable couch in an air conditioned house. But on Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup>, 14 year-old Wil DeVito brought members of his Boy Scout troop #459 out of Goose Creek to complete a service project by volunteering at Hallie Hill. They came equipped with rakes and brooms and got to work cleaning out the old bedding from each of the 67 dog houses. It was hard work on a hot day but the boys stayed on task and completed the difficult job. Hallie Hill provided light refreshments afterwards.

## The Best Medicine

The current population of Hallie Hill is 44 cats, 165 dogs, and two chickens. Each of those animals (with the exception of the chickens) must take their monthly dose of worm and flea preventative. In addition to the monthly medications, several dogs and a few cats receive some sort of daily medicine.

Many of the animals are on prescriptions that are to be given every 12 hours. This means that each day at Hallie Hill begins and ends with the administration of medications. Daily medicines include insulin for diabetes, Rimadyl for arthritis,



*Timmy opens wide for his twice daily regimen of six different prescription drugs.*

and levothyroxine for hypothyroidism. A “medicine log” keeps record of each medication name and dosage. Staff members take steps to make the medication “tasty” so the animals take it gladly as if it is a treat. Often the pills are placed into canned dog food, but some are given with “Pill Pockets” or even in pieces of “Pupperoni”. Amazingly, even the most shy of our canine population rush forward to grab their medicine.