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There's A Story Behind Every Rescued Pet - Debbie Eades wants you to know it

by Barbara Kohn, My Pet Street Correspondent

Just how far would you go to help save a dog? Ask Debbie Eades of Cincinnati, Ohio. She's driven over 50,000 miles over the past seven years to help transport dogs taken from shelters by rescue groups for re-homing across the country and even Canada.

As a volunteer for what is known as the "Dog Rescue Railroad," Debbie is part of a national network of caring individuals who donate their free time – not to mention gas mileage – to save an animal's life. And now Debbie has retold some of the heartfelt stories about the rescued dogs she has helped to transport in her inspiring book ***Every Rescued Dog Has A Tale: Stories from the Dog Rescue Railroad.***

It was during her recovery from a major illness in the late '90s when Debbie found herself re-evaluating her life and her priorities. She saw a program about the Dog Rescue Railroad on [Animal Planet](#) and knew then she had found her calling.

"I loved dogs and used to volunteer at the shelters," she said. "Transporting dogs seemed a perfect way for me to give these dogs a second chance under my circumstances. I had the time since I was off work from my illness and my husband loved to drive. Plus I could spend time with the dogs during the ride."

Debbie explained that initially she found transport groups through Yahoo Groups. "You can find over 900 transport groups from all over the country on Yahoo Groups just by typing in 'dog transport,'" she said. "[Petfinder](#), [Best Friends](#), [MSN Groups](#) and many of the breed rescues are other places to look online for transport help."

Going back to work didn't stop Debbie from her mission. Most every weekend, she and her husband, her mom or a friend from work who also rescues, are on the road. A typical trip is about 250 miles roundtrip – Cincinnati to Louisville or Lexington, KY. For some dogs, their trip with Debbie and her husband is to their final destination. For others, the trip is the first leg of what may be a 1000 or more miles to its new home. That's when several different drivers come in, meeting at designated spots to transport a dog on its next leg of the journey.

"The groups I work with are generally in the Southeast, transporting a majority of the dogs to New England where they have better spay/neuter programs so there are less dogs locally to choose from and lots of families who want them," she said. "Canada is another area where we place a lot of little dogs since most of the ones up there are bigger and many people want smaller ones."

Sharing their story

But transporting dogs proved to be just one part of what Debbie considers her life-affirming mission. She also was driven to write about some her rescued transports.

She says that every one of these animals deserves to have its story told about how it ended up in need. In her book, she tells the story of 17 of her rescues, including Oreo, a pit bull puppy who was being used as bait in a dog fighting ring in New Jersey, and Sasha, a beautiful black Great Dane who is abandoned and tied to a

doghouse in the dead of winter, with no food until her owner calls Great Dane Rescue and tells them to "come and get her."

Every Rescued Dog Has A Tale, which took Debbie two years to write, is a dedication to all these animals and many others who, as she describes, have been beaten down emotionally and often physically yet who still have enough trust to willing go one from car to the next on their way to hopefully a new and better life. She hopes her book will help educate people about abused and neglected dogs and most importantly how they can help."

In addition to the joy of helping an animal is the pleasure of meeting so many other animals. Debbie noted. "I give a book to each driver I meet and we try to keep in touch," Debbie said. "I now have good rescue friends in Dayton, Louisville, Lexington, Columbus to name just a few of the cities I visit. Also, the new owners also keep in touch. Some send me updated photos of the dogs and Christmas cards."

All profits from Debbie's books go directly to help rural animal shelters and dog rescues around the country so that more dogs will have a happy ending. One group that has particular place in her heart is [Dogs Deserve Better](#), the organization working to help rescue and shelter needy chained and penned dogs, as well as to educate the public and push toward legislative efforts to protect these dogs.

"We've driven a lot in the South and you see so many dogs chained to trees or pickup trucks— many of them living their entire lives that way, she said. "I hope for a better future for them."

You can purchase a copy of Debbie's book on her [Amazon](#) book page, where you also will find photos of many of Debbie's rescued dogs as well as RAVE reviews from readers. The book is available too at a discount to rescue groups for their own fundraising efforts.

And for you social media buffs, you can follow [Debbie on Twitter](#).

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