

# Dog listed in rescue contest

*By Wendy McCardle*

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## A CLOSER LOOK

To vote for Buddy as Top Rescue, visit [www.rallytorescue.org](http://www.rallytorescue.org). At that site, people can view photos and videos of each of the top 10 rescue animals in the contest.

The voting deadline is Oct. 30, and the winner will be announced in November.

For more information on the American Lhasa Apso Club Rescue, call Helen Zeppenfield Brown at 624-5136, e-mail [lhasas@bkvsoap.com](mailto:lhasas@bkvsoap.com) or visit [www.lhasaapsorescue.org](http://www.lhasaapsorescue.org).

**EVERETT** - Buddy is a "happy-go-lucky little dog," said Helen Zeppenfield Brown, his former foster owner and national chairman of the American Lhasa Apso Club Rescue, based in Everett.

Just a year ago, however, no one knew if he would survive a serious illness. Now, the playful puppy is in the Top 10 of a national competition to determine the year's Top Rescue.

The ProPlan Rally to Rescue is holding the contest to choose one top rescued animal of the nearly 200 submitted by rescue organizations. The winning animal will receive a year's worth of food and his rescue organization will receive \$5,000 worth of food.

Both dogs and cats are in the final 10.

"They all have special stories about when they come in and the different hurdles that they've gone over trying to get new homes," said Brown.

Last year, Buddy came to Brown's Everett-area home with 37 stones imbedded in his urethra - something that easily could have killed the Lhasa apso without treatment. He spent two months in recuperation and then underwent emergency surgery for a herniated disc. Brown cared for him through his surgeries and recuperation.

"He's probably one of the sweetest little Lhasas that we've had come in for rescue," said Brown. "He likes everybody. He just wants to romp and play."

Lhasa apsos are slightly larger than the shih tzu breed and come from a long history as temple dogs in Tibet. They like the calmness of an adult-only home and will alert owners to any unusual noises around the home, Brown said.

Walte and Ellen Pfendner of Norristown, adopted Buddy, his sister Suzy, who also was fostered locally, and a special-needs Lhasa named Titus in the past year.

Ellen said the decision to adopt another Lhasa was easy when her 13-year-old Lhasa, Jellybean, died in February 2008.

"I immediately went online and submitted an application and decided I could take any Lhasa, even a special needs dog," she said. "I work from home and our children are grown and gone, so I felt we would be a good match for a dog with extra needs. So I said any dog, any age, any needs. And we got

the sweetest, funniest guy in the world, Buddy."

Ellen said that Buddy immediately fit into her and her husband's lives and that he has given as much to them as they have to him.

"It has brought me to a new understanding of my role in the lives of animals and their's in mine," she said. "I enjoy taking care of them, watching them blossom and giving them a good life while they enrich mine immeasurably."

To be named Top Rescue would be an acknowledgement of all the volunteers at Brown's organization, said Ellen Pfendner, as well as a fun experience for Buddy.

"He is already wonderful and cute and funny and will make a good 'spokesdog' for rescue while showing his independent and gregarious spirit to all who pay attention," she said. "We love him and everyone else will, too."

As of Friday, Buddy had the second-highest number of votes online.

Mirror Staff Writer Wendy McCardle is at 946-7520.