



## Helping Those Who Need the Most

BSR's Permanent Foster Care Program

**1. Walking from Sullivan's Island Beach the day after Allie's passing...Although I was there for her last breath on Tuesday, there was more I needed to do to honor this sweet soul who blessed us for two years with her last chapter on earth.**

**2. The tide was coming in so I walked to the water's edge. I wrote Allie's name in the sand and sent her love.**

**3. Not sure how, but the light shifted as soon as I wrote her name.**

**4. The tide came in a bit further. And little by little, the ocean absorbed my love for Allie.**

**5. There's still a trace of Allie if you look for it under the water.**

**6. Two waves came in and there was still a trace of Allie.**

**O**CCASIONALLY WE HEAR THAT IT doesn't make sense to put rescue resources towards the oldest and neediest dogs in our care and that we should focus instead on helping dogs we can "fix" and adopt back out. Indeed, "fixing" the ones we can and placing them in forever homes is the day-to-day emphasis of all of our volunteers and the very reason we take applications for people hoping to adopt one of our intakes. Heartworms, malnutrition, anxieties, lack of socialization...these are all "common" issues we see in our intakes. And those dogs that come in with these issues are generally able to be rehabilitated and adopted out to the right person....not that every applicant is right for some of these dogs! The dog's needs will always be the driving factor in adoption consideration!

But then there are the very "broken" Boykins we take in. How many applicants are looking for a 10-12 year old (or older) Boykin that has lived its life on a chain outside and never know human contact and kindness? Or a Boykin that has had a serious injury, handicap or behavioral issue that will require lifelong care? For every dog we intake that will eventually make it to an "available" listing on our website, there are others that are deemed unadoptable due to advanced age, medical or behavioral issues. So again, why do this? The answer lies in our mission statement:

"Boykin Spaniel Rescue is dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming of at-risk, purebred Boykin spaniels." This mission statement does not say "young and healthy," rather, our founding directive states that we will serve the "at-risk" population. It is for this reason that BSR does not offer to pay for dogs; we intake from shelters, owner surrenders and strays that have been through a thorough and documented owner search process...these are truly the Boykin world's "at risk" dogs. And when those most unadoptable, at-risk Boykin's come into our care, rehoming takes on greater significance. While it is easier to find an adoptive home for a young and healthy Boykin, these older and more needy Boykins deserve a home of their own, and can still have a good quality of life, wanted and cared for when others would pass them by. And that's where our Permanent Foster Care (PFC) Program comes in. It takes a special person to want to become a PFC foster!

Since BSR's inception in 1997, there have always been some dogs that just didn't fit easy models for adoptability. One of BSR's founding members, Christie Whitlock Elwell, recalls that for the less adoptable dogs that came through, homes were eventually found for them within a smaller network of volunteers, not so much with an organized plan in mind, but on a case-by-case basis. By the late 2000's, a concept of