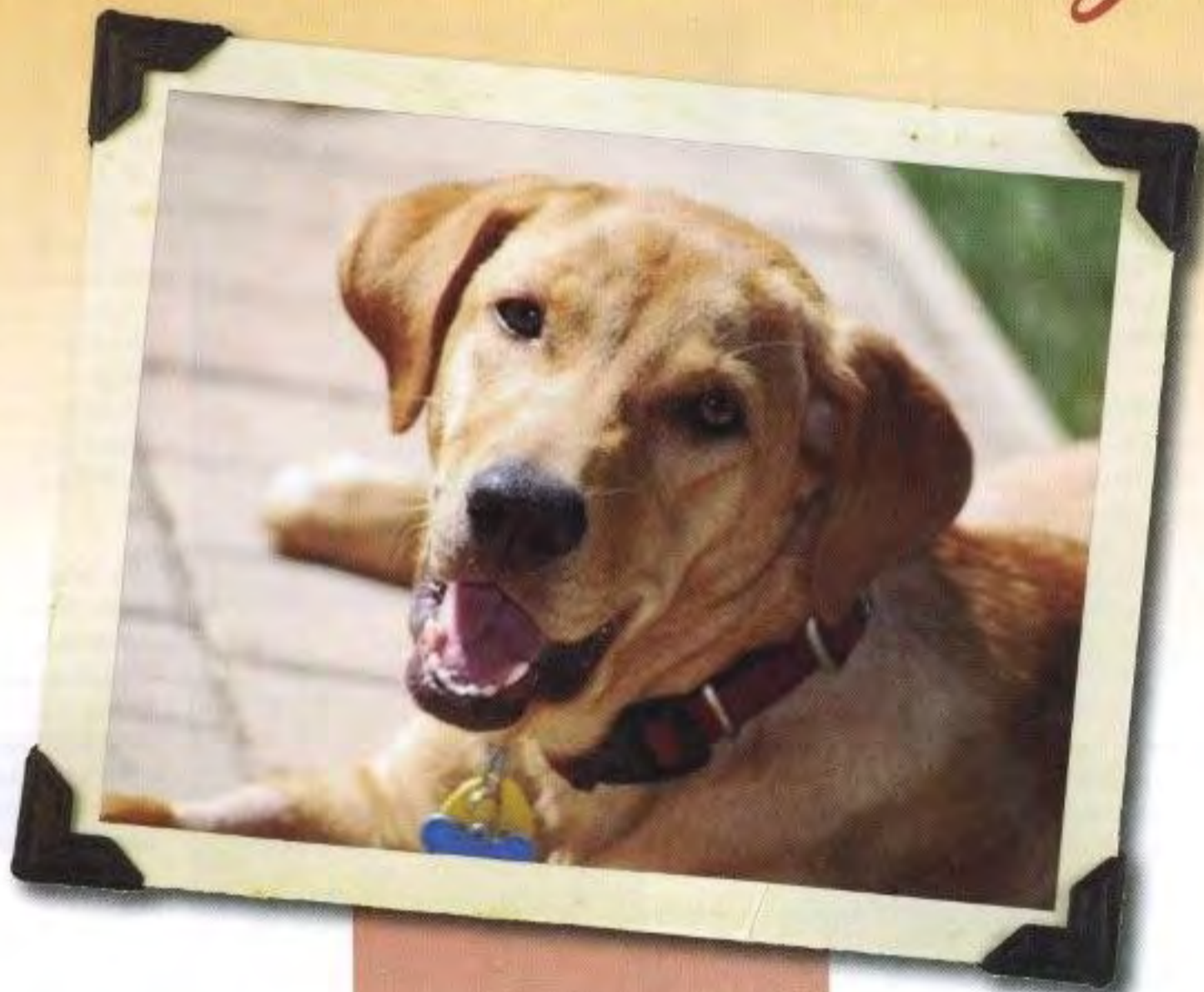


# Amber's Story



**A**t just 7 weeks old, a tiny yellow Labrador and her six siblings were tossed, one by one, out the window of her owner's pickup and onto the side of the highway near Neosho, Mo. A man traveling behind the truck took notice. He couldn't tell what the small bundles were, but after more than a few were discarded, he stopped to investigate. Of the seven puppies, Amber was the only one alive.

The Good Samaritan brought the lone survivor to the local veterinarian at the Animal Clinic of Neosho, Mo., and they worked to nurse the puppy back to health. The puppy's prognosis was not good, but she could survive. She had contracted mange and had a broken tail, and they suspected nerve damage kept her bladder from working properly. But

**Amber's story is  
about survival.**

**It's about  
second chances.**

**And thankfully, it has  
a happy ending.**



By Kelley Baca Weir,  
Spokeswoman for the  
American Humane  
Association

that wasn't enough to keep the little puppy down.

Even though her tail could not wag like other puppies' could, she was a happy, exuberant bundle of Labrador energy. But her fight wasn't over yet. She needed to be monitored to make sure her symptoms didn't worsen. She needed consistent medical and boarding care, which meant more money than the Good Samaritan had. She also needed a loving, permanent home.

The Good Samaritan reached out to the American Humane Association and found information about a grant, offered to nonprofit animal welfare organizations, that would help offset the little puppy's medical costs. He relinquished the puppy into the care of the Coalition for Animal Rescue and Education

(C.A.R.E.) in Hillsboro, Mo., so that she would have a better chance at having all her medical needs met.

"It is a miracle that she survived," said Carole Pitzer, president of C.A.R.E. "She was monitored for psychological damage, but she didn't appear to have any brain damage. She is a beautiful rust color, has a terrific personality, loves attention and loves playing with other dogs. She is a tough girl."

American Humane awarded C.A.R.E. \$2,000 from its Second Chance Fund to help cover some of the puppy's medical expenses. The fund is designed to support American Humane's member organizations in their vital work to help temporarily care for animals that have been victims of abuse or neglect.

"In many cases, when organizations can't afford the medical costs for severely abused, neglected or injured animals, the animals are euthanized. These Second Chance grants allow the organizations that provide urgent medical services and care in these types of cases to be reimbursed for at least part of their expenses," said Debrah Schnackenberg, vice president of American Humane's Animal Protection Division. "We rely on community support to give Second Chance grants — every little bit helps."

Though many people were interested in the puppy at first, their interest waned and C.A.R.E. had trouble placing her for adoption. Through its national network of connections, American Humane was able to put C.A.R.E. in touch with Denver-based Safe Harbor Lab Rescue. Though it was no easy task, kind individuals transported the puppy from Missouri to Denver so that she could find a home of her own.

Today, her owners have given her the name Amber and she is enjoying the winter months of the Colorado mountain town of Glenwood Springs with her new owners, Dean and Wendy Moffatt. Though she may always have underlying problems with socialization and her once-broken tail, Amber has remained happy and loving through it all.

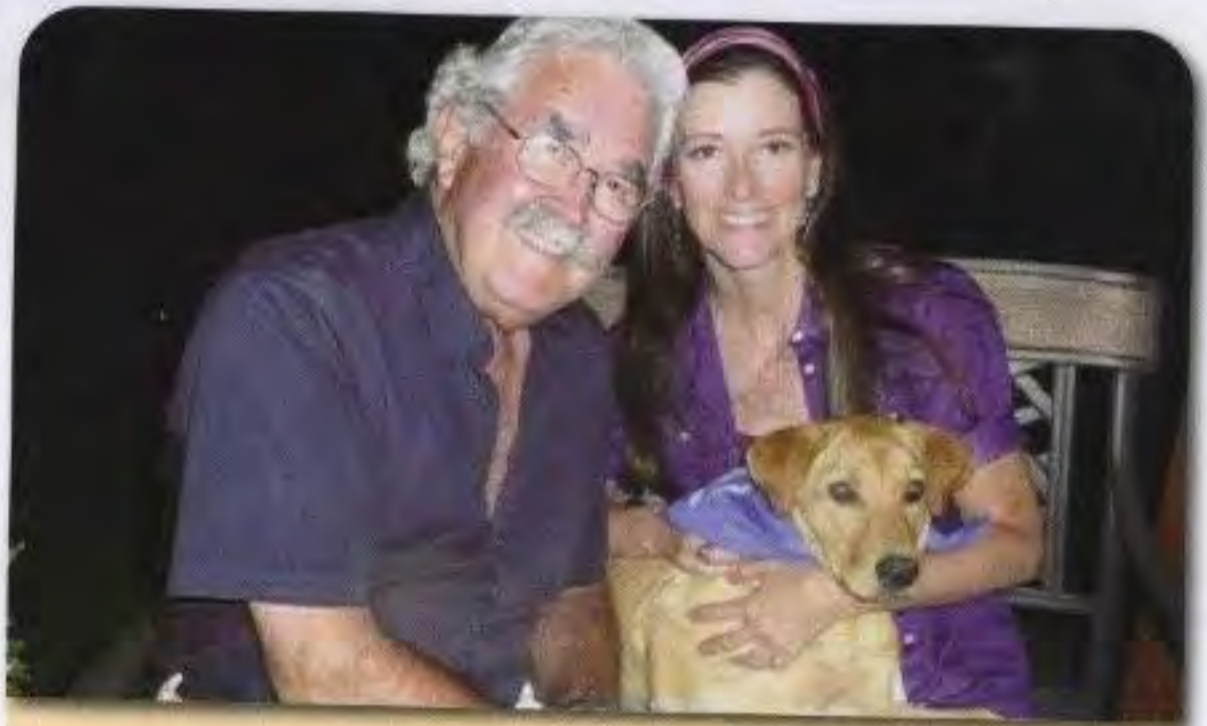
According to Wendy, Amber is a lot like any other dog, with a few exceptions. She is still working on overcoming fear around young men and children and is working even harder to win over the cat.

"Right now, the cat's winning," Wendy said jokingly. "Amber's submissiveness was one reason we were interested in her. Because we have a cranky old cat we figured a submissive dog wouldn't send her packing."

Amber's impact on Wendy and Dean has been somewhat profound, she said. Since Amber began life so traumatically, they have taken a very active role in her everyday life, to be sure she can adjust comfortably. They are considerate of

the Second Chance Fund is offered only to organizations that are current agency members of the American Humane Association, and in select cases of animal abuse or neglect. Funding is awarded on a case-by-case basis by American Humane's Shelter Services staff.

Founded in 1877, the American Humane Association is the only national organization dedicated to protecting both children and animals. Through a network of child and animal protection



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where they take her and focus on how to make each experience pleasant for her.

"Our previous dog, we had since she was a puppy so we knew her whole history," Wendy said. "Our whole focus has been different with Amber, especially considering what she went through. Some places we visit go smoothly for her and some places are a little rough. I don't know who's learned more, her or us."

For more information about American Humane's Second Chance Fund, go to [www.americanhumane.org/secondchance](http://www.americanhumane.org/secondchance). Due to the overwhelming number of abuse cases nationwide,

agencies and individuals, American Humane develops policies, legislation, curricula and training programs to protect children and animals from abuse, neglect and exploitation. The nonprofit organization, headquartered in Denver, raises awareness about The Link® between violence to people and violence to animals, as well as the benefits derived from the human-animal bond. American Humane's office in Los Angeles is the exclusive authority behind the "No Animals Were Harmed"® end-credit disclaimer on film and TV productions. **DS**