

Lines From Linda

BY LINDA AYERS TURNER KNORR

HAPPY ENDING – LOST AND FOUND



Do you believe in miracles? As over 2400 dogs including 179 breeds were competing in the four day Carolina Foothills Cluster Dog Shows at The Greenville Convention Center on July 28, this story begins. Paula Hightower popped a six foot leash on her 13 inch Beagle, Encores River of Dreams Lynmax to get some exercise. In all of the chaos, Paula

tripped and fell, “River” bolted to explore the area.

Kris Harner, Cluster Chair launched an all out search. The area surrounding the Greenville Convention Center includes an airport and one of the city’s busiest highways near the expressway entrance. There was no sign of the little show dog! With the enormous amount of dogs and people in the area, it would seem that River would find a friend to return her to her owner. Sadly that did not happen. With the tremendous traffic in the area, hopes dimmed for finding her unharmed.

Harner enlisted the help of Kim Lamb, owner of nearby Speedy Paws, a premiere dog training facility. Kim dropped everything joining the search immediately covering Greenville with LOST DOG posters. Kris and Kim contacted all of the local shelters, Greenville County Animal Care and the Greenville Humane Society and the news spread though social media. Everyone was looking for River!

Almost six weeks later just when hope was growing dim, businessman Casey Brock, owner of CB2 Consulting, Inc. from Charlotte, North Carolina was looking over some land not far from the Convention Center. Much to his surprise, he discovered a tiny little Beagle still wearing a collar attached to her six foot leather lead. It was River. She was so entangled in briars that Casey had to call for help. First he tried phone all the different appropriate agencies, but was unable to get through to a real person. So he looked up the address of the Greenville Humane Society and rushed to drive there for assistance.

Rachel Delpert, the Adoption Center Operations Manager just happened to be at the reception desk. After hearing Casey’s description, she had high hopes that the dog on all of the posters was indeed River. Although it was not normal that she could leave her job to go rescue a dog, she quickly enlisted the help of Elijah Ackerman, the Vaccine Clinic Coordinator. They would drive the Humane Society van following Casey to rescue River.

When I first spoke with Rachel Delpert, she had this to say about the hero of this story, “I am so thankful that people like Casey Brock still exist in this world! I think he is the nicest man I have ever met! He didn’t have to drive all the way over to find the Greenville Humane Society to ask for help. He could have just continued his work and no one would have ever been aware of the situation. Casey is not even from our area, but he took it upon himself to take the extra step to get River help. He was so happy that he even donated money to help out some of the sick animals in our care. Casey was River’s saving grace and Elijah and I will never forget the steps Casey took to save River’s life.”



Owners Ralph and Paula Hightower, we’re overjoyed to be reunited with their little Beagle after she was missing for almost 6 weeks.



Look closely at how River’s 6 foot leash was wrapped around the trees when she was found by Hero Casey Brock.

After Elijah Ackerman and Rachel Delpert followed Casey into the woods that day, Elijah shared these comments about what they found, “I just remember feeling like it was some sort of true miracle that anyone found her.

River was hidden deep into several acres of totally overgrown woods, not moving a muscle or making a sound. Even once we knew she was out there, we couldn’t find her until being within a few feet of her. We could tell she had gotten snagged on some briars and panicked until her leash was so intertwined with the briars >



Kim Lamb rushed to the Humane Society to be with River until her owners could drive up to get her.



Carolina Foothills Cluster Show Chair Kris Harner launched an all out search for River.

Lost DOG!

7/29/19

Lost: Female Beagle
Near Krispy Kreme on Pleasantburg Dr. (291)

Call: 443-519-9346
864-630-5818

Kim Lamb posted signs all over Greenville and played a huge role in the search and rescue efforts.



Rachel Delport and Elijah Ackerman High 5's for River's rescue.



Hero Casey Brock is all smiles knowing that River is safely home with her family!

that she could barely move around. I hate to imagine how long she had already been like that or what should have become of her if she wasn't found."

"I know some people don't believe in miracles, but finding River that day was an absolute miracle", Rachel shared. "This type of trip is not one that we are usually able to take. I know that rescuing River is a day I will never forget for the rest of my life. Finding her was a reminder of why I do what I do every day."

With the starving little one returned to the Humane Society, Kim Lamb and Kris Harner were called. Kim cancelled all of her classes to rush over to confirm the found

Beagle was indeed the missing one from the dog shows.

Joyfully Kim confirmed that it was River! Kris and Kim had spent so many days searching the woods for her. What a relief it must have been.

As soon as they received a phone call with the happy news, Paula and Ralph Hightower jumped in their car and drove up from Casey for the amazing reunion. Kim Lamb was waiting having stayed with River until they arrived.

Reluctant to accept his role as being called a hero, Casey Brock wrote to me, "I am so grateful to Rachel and Elijah for taking time from their busy day to rescue

a scared stranded dog. This is not part of their job description. I am so happy that the dog is reunited with its owners and grateful to Rachel and Elijah. They are the heroes of this story."

It seems to me that this impromptu collaboration brought out the best in many dog lovers. As Kris Harner, the one who got the whole ball rolling expressed, "The story of River is just one of the most remarkable examples of how dog enthusiasts came together to find this lost Beagle."

Paula and Ralph Hightower shall forever be grateful to all the heroes who are responsible for River's HAPPY ENDING!" ■