

When Storm Clouds Roll Does Your Dog Search For A Hole?

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## Russell Rescue Roundup March 2015

### When Storm Clouds Roll Does Your Dog Search for a Hole?

Bentley, aka "the sheriff," is hailed by his family as the most fearless dog in the county. This mighty Jack Russell Terrier protects his loved ones like the Secret Service guards the president. Alert and always on the lookout for trouble, he is ready to respond at a moment's notice. That is, at least, on a sunny day. The instant Bentley hears the first clap of thunder, the brave security guard cowers and runs for cover.

Astraphobia, the abnormal fear of thunder and lightning, is common in dogs. Symptoms include pacing, panting, whining, and anxiousness. Some dogs may become clingy while others search for a place to hide.

When dogs exhibit these symptoms, pet parents often feel compelled to try to console them; however, this action can actually reinforce the dog's fearful behavior. Here are a few things to try that may help ease a pet's nervousness:

- Remain calm around the dog and act normally
- Turn on the TV or radio or provide some kind of white noise
- Provide a safe hiding spot such as a covered open crate or a soft bed in a small interior room
- Provide a snug compression garment (such as a ThunderShirt or Storm Defender)
- Consult your veterinarian, especially for severe cases

What works for one dog will not necessarily work for another. Talk with your veterinarian about your dog's symptoms.

Bentley's family tried several options but found the most effective for him was to place a soft bed in the windowless laundry room and wash a load of clothes. The noise of the washer and dryer plus shelter in an interior room soothed his symptoms. When thunder rolls, he now heads straight for the laundry room where he can relax while the storm passes.

## Happy St. Patrick's Day

from **Jake**, one of our wonderful  
JRT's available for adoption.



*Photo courtesy of Jennifer Thomas*

"I think we are drawn to dogs because they are the uninhibited creatures we might be if we weren't certain we knew better." - George Bird Evans

## Remarkable Russell Re-Tale: The Story of Precious

by Anna Boatman



© Anna K. Boatman

When I first saw Precious on my Facebook feed I knew that we probably didn't need another dog, but I just

couldn't get her out of my mind! It was one of those feelings where here was my chance to do something, something that would actually make a difference to fix at least one of the wrongs with the world. So after working with Christina and Russell Rescue, we finally officially adopted Precious, the 12 year old Rat Terrier into our little family.

At first there were some challenges, having a senior dog that you didn't know all of her life requires patience and the willingness to always try new and unconventional things to make both their and your lives more comfortable. It took a while for her to not feel like she had to defend her food so much, I think that she now knows that it's always going to be there. (By the way after much trial and error, the best dog food that we found is [Nurto Max Mini Chunk Adult Dog Food](#).) Poor Precious had to have many teeth removed, so this is actually oily enough for her to eat dry kibble. The reason I mention this food is because it was a real game changer for us, and fixed many of the challenges we were facing. Who would have thought that something so easy could fix a difficult situation.

She's such a funny little creature, sometimes she will nap for hours with her cute little snores and then she will bolt out in a full gallop to the back part of the yard. After some adjustment to our cats, she and our male cat Seamus (a Siamese) play this chasing game around. At first we thought that they were fighting (lots of vocals), but then Precious' little nub tail was wiggling as fast as it could and Seamus kept coming back for more so now they're play buddies! She has taken a special shine to my husband, and prefers his snuggles the best. If he leaves to go to work, and I'm still at home she will lay in the middle of the carpet and stare at the door just in case he's coming right back. Usually she will just fall asleep after a period of time right there on the carpet, it's pretty adorable. If you're thinking of adopting a senior, you're going to adopt a very special creature that may or may not have had a rough life, but will give a special kind of love that is full of gratitude and loyalty.

## Star of the Month



**Rock** is a young male Chihuahua mix that came to us from Texas. This sweet, affectionate boy is crate-trained, walks great on a leash, and gets along well with other dogs. He needs a wonderful forever home with a family that does not mind if he stays at their feet or showers them with lots of doggy kisses. Rock loves to curl up under a soft blanket when he naps. We're sure he must bark but we never hear a peep out of him. He has been with RR for a while now and just gets overlooked because he's so quiet and unassuming. Rock is fine around older children but not very patient with younger ones. It also takes a little extra time for him to become comfortable around men. He is a great companion and ready to meet his new best friend(s).

## Events

Pet Adoption events are held every Saturday at PetSmart in Spring Hill, TN from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Pet Adoption events are held every Saturday and Sunday at PetSmart in Smyrna, TN from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. (and sometimes begin as early as 11:00 a.m.) Check Facebook for additional information.

## Fosters Needed!

Russell Rescue has a critical need for foster families who can provide our dogs with a safe, loving environment until they are adopted into their forever homes. Fosters play a vital role in our mission. The more fosters we have, the more dogs we can save. If you are interested in fostering, please contact Mary Ruth Rogers at russellrescuetr@gmail.com.

## Russell Rescue Wish List

Seresto collars (flea and tick protection) - The small size fits most of our dogs.

Heartgard or Nuheart (heartworm prevention)



Facebook

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