



THE GRAY GHOST GAZETTE

www.weimrescuetexas.org

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EVIL TAKES MANY SHAPES

By: Suzanne Fourmigue

Evil takes many shapes; sometimes it is the kind old lady down the road who sells a few puppies, "just to keep body and soul together".

When you call on her newspaper ad, she may ask, "Have you been "Saved"?" Making an appointment to see the puppies must be scheduled between her trips to church. It seems they can hardly open the doors without her. Neighbors and friends in this small farming community south of Fort Worth, Texas, think she is a saint. They say she barely gets by, with no one to help her, and all those animals to feed. They wonder how she manages.

Is it any surprise that local law enforcement and the county veterinarian go easy on her when asked to inspect her property and the conditions under which her 100+ dogs are forced to live. How could they be so mean as to cause trouble for this poor old lady, now in her 80's? Yes, they know she was convicted of animal cruelty in 1978, but that was a long time ago. After all, doesn't she deserve another chance? Why dredge up the past? Surely she has learned from her mistakes and made things better for her animals.



Skeletal bodies, hairless & covered in sores. 9/6/02

In August 1978, the Ft. Worth Star Telegram reported 111 Weimaraners had to be destroyed after being seized from Wetobe Kennels. The Tarrant County Humane Society was able to save an additional 45 Weimaraners found in deplorable condition and nursed them back to health.



QUINN - too weak to stand. Those spots on his back are engorged ticks.

For this holocaust, the owner, Maureen Barnett, received a conviction of ONE count of cruelty to animals, a one-year probated sentence, and paid a total of \$2,096.00 in fines and court costs, according to court records.

Since her removal from probation in 1982, Maureen Barnett has bred and sold Weimaraners continuously for the past twenty years. She has advertised regularly in local north Texas newspapers, in dog and sporting magazines and on the Internet. Hundreds of litters of puppies resulted in thousands of Weimaraners sold for up to \$450.00 each for the past 20 years.

For the past ten years Weimaraner Rescue of North Texas has received numerous complaints of the filthy and inhumane conditions at this kennel and the poor health and genetic deformities of the Weimaraners bred there. WRNT reported violations and complaints to the SPCA of Texas, the Humane Society of North Texas, the American Kennel Club, the Texas Department of Health, the Humane Society of the United States and many others.



In July 1998 and in March 1999 the Humane Society of North Texas negotiated the release of a total of 30 Weimaraners from Wetobe Kennels. These dogs were subsequently released to Weimaraner Rescue of North Texas for rehabilitation and placement. After the release of these dogs, Ms. Barnett filed a Restraining Order against the HSNT to prevent them from further kennel inspections. WRNT received a threatening letter from Ms. Barnett's attorney accusing WRNT of making disparaging comments and false allegations about Wetobe Kennel.



THEO - 9/6/02

In the spring of 2002, the American Kennel Club suspended Wetobe Kennel and Maureen Barnett from AKC privileges based on the failure of their inspection of the kennel conditions. Among the violations, the inspector reported that the dogs' ears were so full of ticks they looked like they had " bunches of grapes" hanging out of their ears.

On September 5, 2002, Ms. Tammy Hawley, Shelter Director for the Humane Society of North Texas and their attorney negotiated the release of 13 Weimaraners. One dog was near death and had to be euthanized. The remaining 12 were released to WRNT on September 6, 2002 for rehabilitation and placement. All twelve are emaciated, covered with fleas, ticks, mange, open wounds, intestinal parasites and will require weeks of intensive veterinary care.

Ms. Hawley reports the conditions at the kennel to be among the worst she has ever seen. She collected more than enough evidence to file felony animal abuse charges. Ms. Hawley found 3 dead Weimaraners lying in their kennel runs during her inspection. An attorney and neighbor removed an additional 7 Weimaraners from the premises before the HSNT arrived. These 7 dogs are under a veterinarian's care and WRNT is negotiating with the attorney for Ms. Barnett for their release to WRNT.

In recent weeks, scores of Weimaraners were sold off to other breeding kennels and individuals for \$100.00 to \$200.00 each, to anyone willing to take them away. Even the horses have been sold.



The kennel buildings are empty now. No more thirst, hunger, pain, suffering or dying alone.

Evil comes in many shapes. Sometimes it is the old lady down the road who sells a few puppies and asks, "Have you been "Saved?"

AN EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT - 25 YEARS AGO

An eyewitness to the 1978 event reports, "One hundred-eleven Weimaraners were destroyed in one day. These were once-beautiful Weimaraners who were now covered with ticks and fleas, loaded with worms, nearly hairless with huge sores all over their bodies – holes they had chewed in their own hides from the itching of both kinds of mange – feet and legs swollen huge with the secondary mange changes – eyes and noses matted, knee-deep in their own poop."



"I remember their eyes as they pleaded for someone to do something. Flies so thick you had to bat your way through them like swishing a m a c h e t e

through a jungle. And the sweet puppies – not yet so badly affected as the adult dogs – they were put down too."



MEET THE WETOBE WEIMS....



#1 - Scooter has been claimed by one of the vets. One down and 11 to go!



#2 - Skipper is one of the worst but he sure has spirit!



#3 - Buster figured out pretty quick he likes to be petted and rides so sweet in the car!



#4 - Veronica is a very sweet blue girl.



#5 - Scott's ears are the worst of the bunch, he still wags his tail though and gives kisses.

#6 - Kramer's feet were swollen and red when we picked him up but they look much better today.



#7 - Theo is the most pitiful looking of them all but he is a love!



#8 - Polly is an extremely happy female. The vets think she may be pregnant but we will know for sure next week. She already has a foster home lined up for when she has the babies.



#9 - Quinn had to be carried into the vet last night because his feet were so swollen he could not walk. This morning he was up at the front of his run ready to be petted. Those dots you see on his back are engorged ticks.



#10 - Nanda is extremely shy and very sad. We put her in a run with Chardonnay and it seemed to perk her up a little.



#11 - Jax has recently had a back leg amputated but that doesn't stop him from being Mr Personality and the wild one of the bunch. He is also the thinnest of them all.



#12 - Chardonnay is a little gray female who is very scared. She seemed to be a little happier when she got to share a run with Nanda.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

These wonderful, sweet Weimaraners need weeks if not months of veterinary care to bring them back to health. The veterinary bills will feasibly run into the tens of thousands before they go to their permanent homes. We are desperately asking for any assistance you can give us to rehabilitate each of these wonderful Weimaraners.

For more information, please call 972.994.3572 or contact the volunteers listed below:

All monetary donation questions may be sent to:

Weimaraner Rescue of North Texas
Attention: Wetobe Weims
4347 W Northwest Hwy Suite 120 Box 184
Dallas TX 75220

Or Donations may be made at www.paypal.com. Our Paypal address is paypal@weimrescuetexas.org. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

If you can make a donation such as Kongs, blankets, pet store gift certificates, crates, etc please contact Susan Hosman at susanhosman@yahoo.com.

Any vet services or products (including hw prev, flea & tick prev, doxycycline, cephalixin, etc) can be directed to Smitty Westfall at ratboymom@aol.com or Lin Grado at lingrado@attbi.com.

We desperately need foster homes for these babies and if you can help out please contact Tracey Elliott at weimiemom@yahoo.com

All food and treat donations can be directed to Patty Cornelius at ashcornelius@cs.com

Thanks to Suzanne Fourmigue, Diana Beck, Smitty Westfall, Cameron Moore and Lin Grado for being there to bring these most deserving weims in. Special thanks to VCA Animal Hospital and to the North Texas Humane Society for all of their assistance and patience, but mostly for caring!

The closing of Wetobe is the end of an era and we are so grateful for each of you who has helped us over the years. To give each of these dogs a chance for some peace and love is all we strive for. Thanks for everything!

Weimaraner Rescue of North Texas, Inc. Lone Star Weimaraner Club, Inc.

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