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SP 500	1258.98	0.81
Russ 2000	680.89	0.81
AMEX	1759.71	0.78
NYSE	7809.25	13.49
30 YR BOND	45.52	0.13

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News

Dog gets a home for Christmas

By BURTON SPEAKMAN, The Daily News, bspeakman@bgdailynews.com

Thursday, December 29, 2005 12:25 PM CST

A 16-year-old dog at the Bowling Green-Warren County Humane Society shelter benefited from human kindness in a case that illustrates how technology is making the world smaller.

Diane Myers of Houston saw Murphy on <http://www.petfinder.com> and read his story and decided she needed to do something to help the Australian cattle dog find a new home, she said. Myers operates Corgis N Critters NET Rescue Inc., a dog rescue, in the Houston area.

"When I saw Murphy's picture and read her story, I started pounding the pavement for someone who would take a cattle dog," Myers said.

The dog's story was posted on various cattle dog Web sites, she said.

"The owner of an Australian cattle dog rescue in Illinois offered to take her in not just as a rescue but as a permanent member of the family," Myers said.



Submitted photo
Katherine Beutow (right) sits with her niece and her new dog, 16-year-old Murphy, at her home in St. Joseph, Ill. Murphy was adopted from the Bowling Green-Warren County Humane Society shelter and delivered to Beutow on Christmas Eve.



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A transfer was then organized to get Murphy from Bowling Green to her new home in Illinois, she said.

The dog was delivered Friday from Bowling Green to Bloomington, Ind., where it was given a full exam by a veterinarian, Myers said. Murphy arrived at her new home on Christmas Eve.

Efforts to find Murphy a new home began Dec. 21, Myers said.

"Normally these efforts don't happen so quickly," she said.

Most dogs that old are simply not considered adoptable, she said.

"At 16, a cattle dog is near the end of its lifespan," Myers said. "It was heartbreaking to see that dog sitting there Christmas week."

Once the dog's face was on the Internet, things began moving quickly, Myers said. In addition to the adoption, other people donated money to the new owner to help offset adoption costs. The dog's advanced age will lead to additional medical costs in the near future.

"Those donations were made directly to the new owner," Myers said, "so she wouldn't be such a burden to the new owner."

"Members of the dog community really made an effort for one sad little dog," she said.

Katherine Beutow, of St. Joseph, Ill., adopted Murphy. She operates the Midwest Australian cattle dog rescue.

"People were talking about her story online and no one else was stepping up, so I said I would take her," she said. "I did it before I even told my husband about it. When I told him, he didn't even blink an eye and said, 'Of course we'll take her.'"

Murphy is doing well in her new home, Beutow said.

"It was amazing," said Lorri Hare, director of the Bowling Green-Warren County Humane Society. "The first time I saw that dog at the kennel, I grabbed its records. I couldn't bear for that dog to be euthanized, but I never thought a rescue would happen so quickly."

Everything just fell into place for Murphy's adoption, she said.

"Luckily, we've got a lot of awesome people to help us transfer animals," Hare said. "She's such a special little girl."

The higher percentage of older dogs are not as fortunate to be adopted, she said. Subsequently, most have to be euthanized.

"Unfortunately older dogs are the last ones taken for adoption," Hare said. "It's hard for people knowing they'll get attached and won't have much time with them."

"We try to find homes for older dogs; fortunately, there are people out there who are willing to take them," she said. "These dogs have given so much love during their life, we try to make sure they have as much as we can give them at the end, whether it be by finding them a home or before they're euthanized."

Beutow commended the groups' work.



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"Most groups would have just put down a dog that age," Beutow said. "Adopting older dogs isn't real easy."

Euthanizing some older dogs is the most humane solution, she said. But Murphy is still spry and has only a few health problems, including incontinence.

The Petfinder Web site is beneficial in helping with adoptions, Hare said.

Adoption networks that handle a certain breed of dog can look at the site. Without the site, the adoption rate at the humane society wouldn't be nearly as high, she said.

"Because of it, we've adopted dogs as far away as California and Alaska," Hare said. "We'd love to adopt them all locally, but with 600 to 800 dogs a month it would overflow the market."

- For more information about the Bowling Green-Warren County Humane Society or to make a donation go online to <http://www.petfinder.org/shelters/KY18.html> or call the shelter at (270) 783-9404.

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Katherine Buetow Branson wrote on December 29, 2005 1:17 PM:

"Hopefully Murphy's story will encourage others to take a chance on rescue dogs...especially the older ones that may get overlooked in shelters. Katherine Buetow Branson(note correct spelling and full name) Midwest Australian Cattle Dog Rescue"

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