



# The Paw Print



*For Our Fabulous Fosters*

## OUR FEATURED FOSTERS

Lee and Betsy Collins

### How long have you been fostering for Saving Grace?

We started volunteering at Saving Grace 7 years ago, loved it and wanted to do more and began weekend fostering 6 years ago, that grew into “regular” fostering 5 years ago.

### Why did you decide to start fostering?

It's simple, to make a difference! Way too many dogs in North Carolina are not being given a chance. Fostering helps give these dogs a second chance. It gives them the opportunity to turn a bad situation into a lifelong family. The more foster homes we have the more dogs we can save.

### Did you have experience with fostering prior to Saving Grace?

Nope!

### Do you have pets? How many and what type?

We have 2 dogs from Saving Grace. Our first adoption is what made us love Saving Grace so much. Lilly Bell (now Colby) is almost 9 years old. She is part Husky, Greyhound, Beagle and all around perfect. Our second Saving Grace dog was a foster who gave birth at our house. Hattie is a 6-year-old brindle pit bull/ mastiff that has stolen our hearts.

### Who in the household helps with fosters?

It's just the two of us and we are equal partners in crime. Lee has a weak gag reflex, so Betsy helps a lot with the poop. Lee handles the pen engineering.

### Do you typically prefer singles, pairs, small litters, large litters, mom with pups, recoveries? Why?

Betsy has a love/hate relationship with all of them. Lee's favorite is pregnant Mama's. We both agree that any size litter is more fun than a single puppy!



### What is your most memorable foster(s)?

Our most memorable foster was named DeeDee when she came to us, just a few days before Christmas 2018 after she had started giving birth at the farm — she was so skinny they hadn't even realized she was pregnant. Lee was home alone for the week and had to borrow a friend's car to go get her. She had two pups at the farm, one in the car on the way home, and one in our house. She was a great mom, but she had no idea how to live in

**BY THE NUMBERS** *Dogs back to the farm for the month of March*

7 Moms  136 Puppies  a handful of Recovery Dogs



our aloof hound (and SG alum) Colby. She was a great teacher to our littlest foster pups (until they attempted to nurse — then she put them in her place), a playmate to our bigger foster pups, our foster mamas looked to her for confidence and direction in how to be a “house dog”. A perfect girl for our family.

**What makes you continue fostering?**

Fostering has broken our hearts more time than I would like to remember but the reward is worth it a million times over. Every time a pup leaves our care we think about the dozens of lives that dog is going to impact. We often imagine what trouble they are getting to in their new families and are thrilled when we receive updates from their families.

**Describe your set-up. Where do you keep your fosters, what works best for you and your family, what kind of schedule do you try to keep?**

We have tried every set-up in the book! We are currently using the garage for moms with pups and as much yard time as possible when they are old enough. Yard time is key for a successful puppy foster. If you ever question your setup, please use the Saving Grace Foster’s Facebook group for answers.

**Do you have any advice or recommendations for new fosters?**

Ask questions! Specifically, to Lee — he is a great mentor and loves to hold our new fosters hands through the early days/weeks. He specializes in walking fosters through the process of caring for pregnant moms and moms with litters. If you are hesitant to foster a litter, reach out to the foster team and Lee will walk you through every step of the process.

**Tell us a little bit about yourself.**

We are both engineers. We love what we do but our impact on Saving Grace means so much more. Lee loves wood working and building furniture while Betsy is passionate about building a beautiful backyard and growing a native environment to help the local animal population grow.

the house. Her signature move was to jump out of the pen at night and poop in the vents. After some coaching from the foster team, we eventually taught her that pottying outside was even better.

When it was time for her to go up for adoption a mass on her leg was indicative of cancer and it was determined that she could not enter the program. We had grown so attached to this sweet girl that we agreed to adopt her understanding we would be a hospice home for her. Saving Grace removed her leg, and we took her home having no idea how long we would have together. Imagine our surprise when a few weeks later the results came back — cancer free!

Renamed Hattie (short for Hat-trick as a tripod), she was a perfect fit in our household. A total cuddle bug to offset



# Tips & Tricks

## Photography Tips and Tricks

- Take many digital pictures — it can take dozens of pics to get one or two good ones!
- Pictures taken outside in natural light tend to be better than those taken with flash (no more “vampire eyes”!)
- Use treats or a squeaky toy to grab the dog’s attention. Sometimes, making a “brrrrr” noise or a “meow” does the trick, too.
- Exercise the dog before taking pictures; a calmer dog is easier to photograph.
- Have fun and be patient. Allow at least 15–30 minutes to get a couple good photos, since the dog might need time to relax in his position. Sometimes, a great shot happens quickly; but don’t be upset if it takes a few tries!
- Share your photos on social media and be sure to tag Saving Grace.

**\* Credit for these tips goes to internationally acclaimed photographer Sophia Gamand and [fosterdogsnyc.com](http://fosterdogsnyc.com)**

## Saving Grace Supply Co.

Don't forget to take advantage of your **foster discount** at the Saving Grace Supply Co.



# 10% OFF

*Active fosters receive a 10% discount on swag clothing and wearable items.*



# Taddeo



*Recovery of the Month*

*Such a Star!*



Taddeo is such A STAR! He scored a freedom ride to Saving Grace for some much-needed medical attention as he had multiple fractures to his left front leg. As if this wasn't bad enough he also had a large, open wound on this injured leg. A fractured bone was actually protruding from the wound at one point. His wound was cleaned and bandaged as well as pain meds given until sweet Taddeo could be scheduled to have an amputation.

In the meantime Taddeo went out to stay in the home of a medical foster, Libby Krause. She and her husband welcomed him into their home and took excellent care of him. They are very dedicated medical fosters and were so wonderful getting Taddeo to his appointments to get his bandage changed as well as to his surgery-related appointments. Luckily this little guy didn't have to wait long for surgery and he was able to get his amputation that week.

Taddeo is healing up beautifully from his amputation. He is such a happy and energetic guy and it's so great to see him living without the pain of that badly injured leg. Libby and her husband have loved watching him get to be the dog they knew he was inside! Thank you so much Libby and all of our stellar medical foster families for all you do!

*Happy Life Taddeo!!!*