

From Waynesboro to Washington

Local stray catches national attention

By Elizabeth Billips Associate Editor

Her name is Emma.



It'll soon be Anna.

But, the name is no matter. This Thursday, cameras will be rolling as the three-legged stray leaves her foster home in Waynesboro for a real family in Spanaway, Wash.

RVers from across the country are revving up to take the dog on her 2,887- mile journey, beginning with locals

Richard and Sue Daniels who will travel the first leg to Cullman, Ala.

From there, other dogloving RVers will pass her off in Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, California, Oregon and finally to her adopted family in Washington, who have already named her Anna.

According to Mr. Daniels, who helped save the stray's life through his non-profit organization, Old Fella Animal Rescue, NBC contacted him Monday about producing

an exclusive on the journey.

And it doesn't stop there.

The Discovery Channel is producing a special to air on Animal Planet, intertwining footage from Anna's journey with the story of Mr. Daniels and his adopted stray, Old Fella, whose tale spawned a rescue movement in Burke County.

Mr. Daniels said film crews will not only visit Waynesboro but will go to the Modock, S.C. campground where he rescued Old Fella in 2005 and to Colorado Springs where the second annual "Old Fella Rally" will be held this summer.

As with Old Fella, Mr. Daniels says Anna's newfound stardom "is the stuff dreams are made of."

In January, she was rescued from the roadside by a Burke County couple.

She'd been hit by a car, and her front leg was useless and dangling. As her story unfolded on the Open Roads Forum, an online blog for RVers, dozens of readers piped up to pledge their assistance.

One surgery and three months of recovery later, Anna is ready to make good those offers.

"America's heart is being poured out to help an abandoned stray find her way from the Southeast to the Northwest corner of the United States," Mr. Daniels said. "Some may ask, 'is there a God in Heaven who looks down on His creation?' Stories like this one reassure us."

Mr. Daniels said he hopes the media attention on Anna's journey will help promote his bigger cause - the establishment of an animal shelter in Burke County.

"If we make any money on this, that's where it's going," he said. "We *are* going to get a shelter." To follow an online

thread documenting

Anna's journey, go to

<http://www.rv.net/forum/index.cfm/fuseaction/thread/tid/19342941.cfm>.

To read the original Old

Fella story, go to

www.thetruecitizen.com,

keyword: "Falling for Old

Fella."