

Dog that spawned local rescue movement dies

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Old Fella File photo

The four-legged celebrity who turned animal rescue and adoption into a local mission has made his way to dog heaven.

Old Fella, once a skinny, black stray found at an RV park by Waynesboro natives Richard and Sue Daniels, passed away Saturday night from complications of bone cancer that spread to his lungs.

During his short time with the Daniels family, Old Fella touched the lives of a number of people, from girl scouts to grown men, and quickly captured the hearts of animal lovers across the nation. His rescue story produced an outcry of care, and he became the namesake for Burke County's first animal rescue organization.

When the Daniels first found Old Fella, he was missing a paw and most of his teeth, but something in his eyes made Richard go back for him - and before they knew it, the Daniels had a new pet with an enormous vet bill.

That's when donations started coming in from other RVers who'd caught wind of Old Fella via an online forum. The forum, which once offered support and encouragement to what Richard was trying to accomplish, now shares condolences for a dog who was so much more than a pet.

"Old Fella gave so much hope to so many people," Richard said. "It's hard to put in words what his life is and was ... what an ambassador he was to animals all across the United States ... to me, he was a sweet little ol' dog, and I loved him to death."

(Editor's note: A memorial service is currently being planned for Old Fella, and information will be published in an upcoming edition of The True Citizen.)