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## Mostly Mutts Animal Rescue completes mission in northeast Alabama

Staff reports 23 hrs ago



### Special to the MDJ

On Feb. 5, a Mostly Mutts team set off in the Mostly Mutts van and drove 2.5 hours to Bridgeport, Alabama, to rescue dogs in poor condition. Many dedicated volunteers were on hand to help unload and care for these dogs on arrival at the shelter. They were covered in fleas, dirty and matted. Many had lost most of their fur due to malnutrition and flea allergies.

Several weeks ago, Mostly Mutts received an email from someone who works at an industrial business in Kennesaw asking for their help. The same company also has a location in northeast Alabama, where workers had noticed that the neighboring property was overrun by dogs in poor condition. The Alabama workers reached out to their colleagues in Georgia to try to get a rescue group involved.

It turns out that this very rural property is located next to a dump where people routinely drop off unwanted dogs. The dogs made their way to the people living nearby, to find food and shelter. Unfortunately, those people, although their hearts were in the right place and they attempted to care for the strays, barely had resources to take care for themselves. They would purchase the cheapest dog food they could find to try to keep the dogs fed, but they were unable to provide proper care, vetting and obviously did not get any of them spayed or neutered. They tried to get help from local animal control and police, but nobody was willing or able to assist. The situation had become desperate and they agreed to let Mostly Mutts take most of the dogs.

On Feb. 5, the Mostly Mutts team comprised of Executive Director Tammy Turley, Assistant Executive Director Mandy Smitherman, board member Matt Sender and Senior Volunteer Mel Nasser set off in the Mostly Mutts van and drove 2.5 hours to Bridgeport, Alabama.

It was crucial to be calm, diplomatic and non-judgmental while persuading the residents to part with as many dogs as possible. Twenty-one dogs were safely loaded into crates and secured in the van. The dogs did not bark or make a sound during the journey back to Kennesaw.

Many dedicated volunteers were on hand to help unload and care for these dogs on arrival at the shelter. They were covered in fleas, dirty and matted. Many had lost most of their fur due to malnutrition and flea allergies. Included in the group was a mom with seven 5-week old puppies, another mom with three older puppies, and two pregnant females.

One of the vets from Kennesaw Mountain Veterinary Services spent the whole next day (on her day off) examining and testing all the dogs. Thankfully they tested negative for mange, but all have skin infections and several were heartworm positive.

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Just over a week later, it is easy to tell they are starting to feel much better and getting acclimated to proper food and shelter. Their emotional and social needs are being met by Mostly Mutts' team of loving and committed volunteers.

So far, the vet bills for the care of these dogs will exceed \$8,000. There will be two more litters of puppies which will incur additional costs for spay/neuter, vaccinations, etc. Mostly Mutts is welcoming donations in any amount. To donate, visit [www.mostlymutts.org/support-us/donate](http://www.mostlymutts.org/support-us/donate). The

adult dogs and puppies are not quite ready for adoption, but they will be posted on the Mostly Mutts website when it is time for them to find new, loving homes.



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