



If we paraphrase Paul Simon's lyrics: "And the mother and child reunion is only a motion and a month away," we could be singing about two dogs -Lucinda, a mom Aussie, and her puppy Millie, a yellow Lab mix, saved from imminent danger in Texas over a month apart.

Both were rescued from a dangerous section of Dallas (known for high crime, drugs and prostitution), transported from Texas and embraced by Last Hope Animal

Rescue in Wantagh. At first, Lucinda and her daughter Millie both eluded capture by the local humane group-the Society for Companion Animals (SFCA).

Finally in early June, the group grabbed Millie, assessed her injured leg quickly and sent her on a long ride to Last Hope by auto transport. More about the sad tale from a helper at the in Texas:

"The SFCA trapped Millie who was under a house in a very rough area of Dallas. Police cars, shooting, prostitution common. I witnessed a prostitute asking for more money from her pimp while the dog trap was next to me.

"Nice woman whom the dogs approach told me Millie had a sibling but that pup was hit and killed by a car. Millie appears to have been hit also. Look at x-rays. This poor girl was using her broken leg because the skin off her other leg made walking too painful. Sad beginning, but hoping for happy ending."

Millie, with that badly injured rear leg, arrived in Wantagh a month before her mom did. Millie's leg was cut, abraded and possibly broken. Her sending-shelter wasn't able to afford further diagnostics beyond the x-ray, so Last Hope brought the nine-month-old pup to Long Island as soon as possible.

After several vet visits, Last Hope found out her leg would heal on its own and no orthopedic intervention was needed. Millie has been in a Foster-to-Adopt home with volunteers Sarah and Matt for six weeks. Her leg has healed nicely.

Meanwhile, Lucinda, Millie's mom, who was heartworm positive and neglected, had to wait over a month for the next possible ride to New York. She arrived at Last Hope July 31st on a small transport with only one other dog bound for Kent Shelter in Calverton. More background from her sending-shelter:

"Lucinda is an Aussie {Australian Shepherd} the Society For Companion Animals captured in a dog trap on June 9, 2023 in a bad section of Dallas. She is still very young, approximately 20-24 months old, weighs 68 pounds and is spayed now.

"SFCA had been feeding her and trying to capture her for months. A few weeks before we caught her, we managed to capture her puppy Millie, who also ended up at Last Hope.

"Even though Lucinda was starving, it took her nearly



Photo taken in Texas of puppy Millie's injured rear leg.

an hour to work up the courage to walk into the dog trap for the chicken we used for bait. She actually left at one point, and fortunately our helper was able to call her back. She was filthy, starved and full of fleas and smelled terrible from lying in the muddy creek.

"We aren't sure of her history. Whatever her history, she ended up on the street. It is obvious that she had been in a home at one point since she is comfortable inside and is fully house-broken.

"When we trapped her, she had a rope tied around her neck that she chewed through to escape. Fortunately, the rope wasn't constricting her neck and there were no sores, although there may be a permanent groove in her fur."

Last Hope volunteers were impressed with Lucinda despite the suffering and deprivation she experienced. She was quiet, gentle and walked well on a leash. Lucinda resembles a tall, tri-colored Aussie. Her smooth, tan puppy Millie doesn't look like her mom at all.

A week ago, Sarah and her mom Felice brought Millie to Last Hope so the little family could be together for the first time since their separate rescues. They wanted to see if daughter and mom recognized each other in their new setting so far away. Felice posted:

"After a month and many miles, Momma Lucinda and her baby pup Millie finally reunited at Last Hope. They played together so nicely, and Momma Lucinda seemed very happy. Today was the first time I've seen Lucinda actually wag her tail and walk with a prance in her step. Love them both. It's time for sweet Lucinda to find her forever home, and maybe the two can continue to have Mommy/Daughter play dates."

They sniffed; they played. It was a joyful, yet brief reunion. Their meeting may have been the magic charm because by the end of the week Lucinda found a Foster-to-Adopt home where she will stay during her heartworm treatment and recovery. All expenses are paid for by Last Hope. Most of our heartworm foster dogs' placements are finalized when the dog's heartworm protocol is over.

Hopefully, Lucinda and Millie can continue to have visits. These wonderful, formerly terrorized Texas dogs deserve to have all the best, now and in the future.



Lucinda, the Aussie mama dog.



Photos of Lucinda and Millie's "Mother & Child" reunion at Last Hope.

Last Hope comedy, SPAYghetti benefit show, August 18

Are you ready for a fun night which includes dinner, a comedy show featuring special comedy guests Eric Haft and Rich Walker, gift basket raffles and more?

Then join Last Hope on Fri., Aug. 18 at 6:30 p.m., for their SPAYghetti event to benefit their various feral cat programs.

The event will be held at the Levittown Hall, 201 Levittown Parkway in Hicksville. Tickets are \$35pp, which includes spaghetti and meatballs dinner, salad, dessert and soda/coffee/tea. Tickets are \$40pp at the door.

Tickets can be purchased on the Last Hope homepage at: lasthopeanimalrescue.org.

The fundraiser benefits the organization's feral cat programs including their Fix-A-Feral vouchers and Free TNR clinics open to the public.



POLICE BLOTTER

The following incidents have been reported by the Suffolk County Police Department's Third Precinct and other police and law enforcement agencies. Readers should note that as a result of a breach in the Suffolk County's computers last year, the county continues to restore its data and police incident reports are still not readily available.

PETIT LARCENY

Central Islip: Police report that someone stole an assortment of toys from Target department store on North Research Place on July 28.

Brentwood: A 2018 Volkswagen that was parked on Hilltop Drive on July 30 was broken into. The person or persons responsible took a tool kit, gift bags and clothing.

ARRESTS

Driving While Intoxicated or Impaired: William Ayala, 22, 812 Mount Ave., Wyandanch;

Criminal Mischief: Jahvon Porter, 23, 113 Hawthorne Ave., Apt. 408, Central Islip;

Petit Larceny: Tianna Victoria, 24, 130 5th Ave., Bay Shore; Adrienne Grellner, 25, 85 Peckham Ave., Islip; Sumeyra Bayram, 27, 1574 9th St., West Babylon; Alba Sorianomejia, 32, 26 Hemlock St., Central Islip; Craig Cherny, 35, Undomiciled, Mastic Beach; John Balestrieri, 35, 508 Bedford Ave., West Babylon; Joseph Galgano, 37, 30 South 28th St., Wyandanch; Dilcia Aparicio, 38, 45 Grouse Dr., Brentwood; Salvatore Ottomanelli, 40, 38 The Helm, East Islip; Marcin Kossakowski, 40, 418 Oak St., Copiague; Yaniry Nunezhernandez, 42, 147 Hunter Ridge Rd., Massapequa; Sherwin Jackson, 52, 525 Waverly Ave., Patchogue;

Menacing: Charles Wigger, 58, Undomiciled; Anthony Aiello, 73, 1056 Udall Rd., Bay Shore; Malia Fowler, 20, 15 E. William St., Bay Shore; Carla Louisjacques, 24, 17 Dogwood Ave., Bay Shore;

Grand Larceny: Deja Kilpatrick, 26, 92 Prescott Ave., Apt. 1, Jersey City; Teandria Washington, 28, 45 Jackson St., Apt. 5D, New York; Emmanuel Vargascattillo, 31, 3340 Perry Ave., Bronx; Kenneth McConnell (also charged with Burglary), 42, 156 Jefferson St., East Islip;

Criminal Trespass: Michael Eggers, 26, 25 Howells Rd., Bay Shore;

Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Sell: Jaheim Anthony, 20, 2368 Louis Kossuth Ave., Ronkonkoma; Amayah Asia, 21, 1401 N. Ocean Ave., Medford.

The charges against those listed are allegations and the cases are still pending in the courts. Individuals charged and whose names appear in this column may submit documentation to us at a later date that the charges have been dismissed or that they have been found innocent and we will include that information in this space in a timely manner.