

NEVER GIVE UP ON THOSE YOU LOVE

# puppy love



CERISE FILMS PRESENTS  
A DOCUMENTARY BY GAIL GILBERT

76 MIN / U.S.A. / COLOR / 2023 / ENGLISH

[puppylovefilm.com](http://puppylovefilm.com)

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# SYNOPSIS

A doggie documentary that explores themes of humanity.

Community, love, conflict and legacy all come into play when a healthy litter of puppies is suddenly paralyzed and no one knows why.

Vets recommend putting the dogs down, but a group of courageous women rally together and nothing is off the table as they try Chinese herbs, acupuncture, underwater treadmills and even chicken soup to save the pups.

Between the dogs' will to live and the women's perseverance, this incredible journey leads to outcomes that were never thought possible.

**“WHAT AN AMAZING STORY. It moved me to tears, made me laugh and the outcome made my heart smile.”**

# LOGLINE

A paralyzed litter of puppies unleashes the power of hope, commitment and love



# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

PUPPY LOVE is a grass-roots documentary that tells a personal story with a universal message. It is more than a movie about dogs. It is a movie about the power of the human spirit to conquer things that seem unconquerable.

When my beautiful and healthy puppy suddenly became paralyzed, my vet told me to put him down. There was no way I could follow her advice. I had no idea whether he would live or die, but I knew I had to try. As a filmmaker, I also knew that I had to document everything.

Dog-lovers and non-dog people alike tell me tear-filled stories of past struggles with human loved ones that relate to the story told in PUPPY LOVE.

**“the power of the human spirit to conquer things that seem unconquerable”**





# DIRECTOR BIO

Gail Gilbert had a successful career editing TV spots for national advertising campaigns before switching gears and moving into entertainment.

She started by going to grad school for screenwriting and then made several award-winning short films.

Now she splits her time between personal productions and episodic directing/editing.

PUPPY LOVE is her first feature film.

## “PUPPY POWER on film”



**RED**



**SCOUT**



**SHOOTER**



**OLIVER**

# CAST AND CREW BIOS



## **CINDY NAUER – Breeder**

Cindy Nauer appears very little in the film because she was extremely camera shy. She began training her father’s hunting dogs when she was sixteen and won first place at her very first hunt test. From then on her life was all about her labradors.

After college she started breeding and focused on creating a line that would perform well in the conformation ring as well as performance sports. After forty years of breeding, she decided to retire and announced her last litter. That litter became the focus of PUPPY LOVE.

In 2016 the AKC named her Breeder of the Year in Tracking after four of the PUPPY LOVE puppies became Champion Tracking Dogs.

**“The feel-good movie of the year”**

## **AMANDA MARIEN – Producer Cameraperson & RED’S owner**

Amanda Marien is a video editor/  
filmmaker and all-around animal lover.

At the time of PUPPY LOVE she was working with Gail Gilbert at CERISE FILMS and when the opportunity came up to be around puppies and cameras all day, she was delighted to help out.

After a few weeks she offered to take Red home to help Cindy care for the puppies who needed more attention. A week later she begged Cindy to allow her to keep him,

Amanda couldn't be apart from Red's positive attitude and never-ending determination to live the best life.



# CAST AND CREW BIOS



## MICHELLE CULLEN - OLIVER'S owner

Michelle Cullen was born in Dublin Ireland. She grew up continuing her family legacy by doing competitive Irish Dancing. After moving to the Chicago area, she traveled back and forth to Ireland / Canada / and across the US dancing. In 1990 she began a career at American Airlines which allowed her to continue traveling.

A new puppy led to a friendship with Penny who introduced Michelle to a variety of dog sports. Thus she joined the close community of people that helped a talented group of puppies to survive and thrive. Michelle has an uncanny ability to bring out the best in all dogs she works with and Oliver was lucky to be her pick of the litter.



## PENNY KURZ - SHOOTER'S owner

Penny Kurz says life began for her when her family moved to the country and she started tromping fields with dogs. Penny believes her science education and laboratory experience simply reinforced her tendency to question everything.

When the beautiful puppies she had watched being born became paralyzed there was no way she was going to accept, "Oh yes it happens, we just put them down!"

“ It reinforces the mystical bond between dogs and humans ”

# TEN MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Were the puppies normal when they were born?**

*Yes. They were perfectly normal until they turned eight weeks old.*

**What caused the paralysis?**

*Possible causes:*

- a) *reaction to their Distemper/Parvo vaccine*
- b) *parasite in their mother's womb*
- c) *Coonhound Paralysis*

**Does this only happen to Labradors?**

No. It happens in all breeds.

**Is this type of paralysis common?**

It is not common. When it does happen, most dogs are euthanized, so it is considered a terminal condition.

**What made you start shooting this film?**

At first it was to document my puppy and his struggle before he died. It became too hard to do while I was working on him, so I asked other people to shoot video.

**Why didn't the females get sick?**

The immune system in male puppies develops at a slower rate than in females.

**Do the dogs still eat raw today?**

Yes. Some eat home-made, others eat raw meals from Darwin's Pet Products.

**Has there been a recurrence of the paralysis?**

No. None of the puppies were affected by paralysis again.

**Are the dogs all healthy now?**

RED got cancer when he was nine years old and passed away after a valiant battle.

Oliver has had two bouts with cancer and overcame both. The three surviving dogs are happy and healthy.

**Do the dogs still get together and see each other?**

Yes. The dogs get together a few times a year. With the release of PUPPY LOVE, there will be more opportunities for them to see each other on the red carpet!

**“The story is both amazing and inspiring.”**

# REVIEWS

"A wonderful film documentary that delves into the heart as only animals can. Truly a great story about compassion, dedication, hope, and love."

- Shannon Rodgers, *AKC Gazette*

"This is a story that you need to share with everyone. A must-see for every dog lover." -Matt Mercereau, *Overall Retriever Training*

"It's not a story about sick puppies - it's a woman's story about the power of the human spirit to conquer things that seem unconquerable."

- Barbara Gorder,  
*Undisclosed Location*

"It reinforces the mystical bond between dogs and humans....how dogs actually inspire US to be and do better.

- John Farr, *BEST MOVIES by FARR*

"I don't like to play favorites, but PUPPY LOVE is a must-see film at the festival."

- Susan Gorrell, Exec. Director,  
*Julien Dubuque Int. Film Festival*

**A CERISE FILMS PRODUCTION**

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