



South
Hills
Pet
Rescue

PUPDATES!

NEWS FROM THE KENNEL

There is so much happening at South Hills Pet Rescue and we're excited to share it with our extended SHPR family!

First, SHPR was voted "Best of the Best Business" for South Park, PA in December 2025! SHPR founder and training/rehabilitation specialist, Nick Ferraro, accepted the award on behalf of SHPR, but this very special win is dedicated to everyone in our SHPR family. It's because of you that SHPR won and we'll pay this forward by continuing to provide life-saving services for dogs across Southwestern PA and beyond.

So, thank you, SHPR Community, we cannot do what we do without YOU!

Also, SHPR has a new fully functional Puppy Barn. This separate building now houses our nursing dams and their puppies separately from our adult residents,

keeping the families together, cozy, warm, and wagging. With a generous donation from SHPR alumni Mr. Marc Raymond (Park Social), a new hot water tank was installed to make it easier for kennel staff to quickly clean up messes and bathe puppies without having to transfer puppies past the adults to the kennel bath. The new puppy barn will keep our littlest residents happy and safe as they grow into their age-appropriate vaccinations and get ready for their new families.



NEWS FROM THE KENNEL

In other news, SHPR has decided to close on Tuesdays to the public. Though we're sad to have to be closed, we will spend one day off to ensure that all our dog photos and info is up to date and ready for eager adoptive parents when they come a calling.

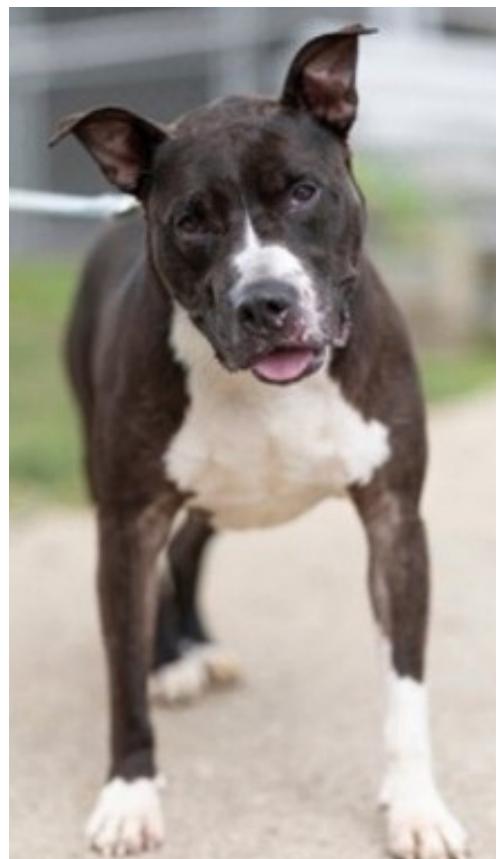
Lastly, we have new coordinator for special events and volunteers. New SHPR Board member, Marji Dickson has graciously agreed to help us with scheduling, coordinating, and managing SHPR's many grassroots events and serve as our main point of contact for new volunteers! If you're interested in volunteering with SHPR to walk dogs at the kennel, transport dogs to vetting appointments and adoption events, or help with our special events, Marji would love to hear from you. Please reach out to her at mdickson@southhillspetrescue.org.

VIUp OF THE MONTH

Meet Tito!

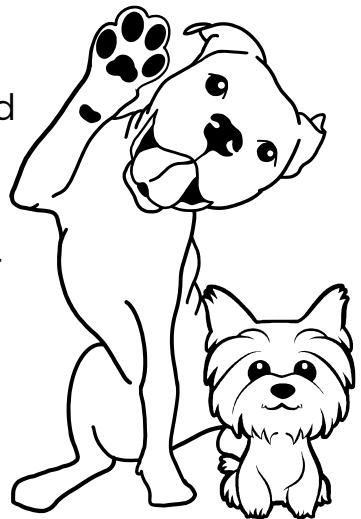
Tito is a 3-year-old terrier pit mix with a big heart and an even bigger love for people. His favorite things include going for walks, playing tug-of-war, earning treats for being a good boy, and spending time with his people. Hard toys are his favorite, especially since the soft ones never seem to last!

Tito has been with SHPR for two years and has been patiently waiting for his forever family. He is not a fan of crates, but he would make a sweet, loyal companion who simply wants to be by your side. If you are looking for a cuddly, playful best friend, please come meet Tito and take him for a walk. Tito is ready to go home!



NICK'S TIPS

Nick says, "When you're training your dog, keeping things simple really helps. Use just two words, your dog's name and the command, like 'Max come' so the dog doesn't get overwhelmed. Short training sessions work best, especially early on, since learning takes a lot of mental energy. Aim for about 15-20 minutes once or twice a day. And try to keep everyone in the household on the same page using the same commands, so your dog feels confident and doesn't get confused."



Join us each month for a new training or behavioral tip from SHPR's Training & Rehabilitation Specialist, Nick Ferraro.

SHPR UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 7, 2026:

It's time for **Super Bingo** again! Join SHPR for Super Bingo on February 7 at the Home Ec. Building in South Park. There will be lots of games including 50/50, Bingo, Pull Tabs, and raffles. We'll start our evening with a delicious dinner from the Fresh Fork Café (included in the entry fee) plus there will be sodas and water available for purchase along with a tasty assortment of fresh baked goods for dessert. All proceeds benefit SHPR – so come out, get your BINGO on and help support the poochies and puppies as they await their furever homes! Doors open at 5 p.m.

Stay in the loop on all upcoming SHPR Events by following us on Facebook or under "Events" on our website

<https://southhillspetrescue.org>



IN THEIR OWN WORDS - SHPR ALUMNI

Ann and Craig Swietzer

"We are huge fans of South Hills Pet Rescue and Resort. For several years, anytime we went out of town, we trusted them with our dog Roxy, who passed away in April of 2025. Roxy could be a bit temperamental, but that never fazed them—not once. They always welcomed Roxy with open arms and treated her with so much patience, care, and love. It meant the world to us knowing she was not only safe but deeply cared for while we were away."

Roxy loved going to SHPR so much that she was always a little sad to leave. We'd joke that she didn't want to come home—not because she didn't love us, but because South Hills felt like a second home to her. When Roxy began declining last April, the staff cried tears of sorrow right along with us. Cheryl and Kristi reached out multiple times to check on Roxy and to see how we were doing. That level of compassion and genuine care meant more to us than words can express, and it's something we will always hold close to our hearts.

Our rescue journey continued in October of 2024 when we were picking Roxy up from one of her many wonderful stays at SHPR. While there, a little puppy came trotting out from the first kennel.

Black and white, chubby, and absolutely irresistible—it was love at first sight for me, at least. My husband wasn't quite on board yet, so I scheduled a visit for my daughter, my son, and I to come back to meet "Petunia." The three of us fell completely in love. I went home and told my husband we were getting Petunia no matter what. On adoption day, he said he wasn't coming... but of course, he did. It was such a special and sweet experience. Petunia was so loved by Cheryl and the SHPR staff that she ended up being one of the easiest puppies I've ever trained and loved. Petunia is incredibly smart and wonderful/ I always say that's because of Cheryl and the care she received from the very beginning.

In June 2025, SHPR shared a Facebook post about two rescued Great Dane puppies. I was raised with Great Danes and had always dreamed of having one. Because I would never buy a dog and will only ever adopt, it felt like the perfect fit. I asked Cheryl if she would hold the little girl for me, and without hesitation, she said yes. We visited once or twice, but sadly, the little girl was very sick and ended up passing away. Heartbroken, we asked if we could adopt the boy puppy when he was ready, and again,

Cheryl said absolutely. We adopted "Hank" on August 27th, 2025, my birthday, and he has been nothing short of incredible. Though he's deaf, he's gentle, easy to train, and one of the best puppies. We are endlessly grateful to Cheryl for the tireless care and love she gave him to keep him alive. Hank fits our family perfectly, and we can't imagine our lives without him.

SHPR is so much more than a place that cares for animals! It's a place filled with heart, compassion, and people who genuinely love what they do. Cheryl, Kristi, and the entire team have been part of some of our most joyful moments and some of our hardest ones, and they showed up for us every single time. From loving Roxy so deeply, to helping us grow our family through Petunia and our sweet Hank, their impact on our lives is immeasurable. We will forever be grateful for the love, dedication, and care they give not only to the animals they rescue, but to the families they bring together."



HOW YOU CAN HELP

SHPR receives no government funding and relies on the generosity of people like you to help fund our critical mission to SAVE ALL BREEDS WITH ALL NEEDS! If you are interested in helping, SHPR always welcomes:

ADOPTIONS: Find your perfect furbaby today. Visit [our website](#) to see what dogs we have available for adoption. If there is a particular size, age, breed, or temperament that you're looking for, please contact Cheryl McClearn at dogs@southhillspetrescue.org to learn about what dogs may not yet be ready for adoption, but soon will be as well as put your name on a waiting list. SHPR honors our waitlist clients and will call you before putting the dogs up for adoption on our website and [Adopt-a-pet.com](#). SHPR recommends filling out an adoption application online to get the process started. Since we are a Rescue rather than a shelter, we are careful to ensure that every dog in our care goes to a loving home. It may take a bit of time to get approved, so start the process soon! Visit <https://southhillspetrescue.org/adoptable-dogs> and scroll down to access the downloadable and editable Adoption Application or email dogs@southhillspetrescue.org

CASH DONATIONS: Cash donations go toward feeding, facilities, veterinarian care (both routine and emergency), required cleaning supplies so that our kennels are spotless for our canine residents, microchipping, spaying/neutering, and other necessary supplies to keep operations running smoothly. Checks can be mailed to: SHPR, PO Box 224, Monaca, PA 15061, or cash/checks can be dropped off at our kennel address during open hours. You can also donate through [Paypal](#)!

FOSTERING: If you can't adopt yet but want to offer a temporary home to one of SHPR's dogs until they can be adopted, consider fostering! To learn about fostering, please email dogs@southhillspetrescue.org

IN-KIND DONATIONS: *Imagine this:* A fuzzy dog vs. a fluffy blanket - who will win? You got it -- the dogs always win at SHPR! Our dogs love to play tug-of-war, roll around in, and chew blankets all the while our kennel staff is trying to replace soiled blankets with clean ones. It's always a play-match made in heaven, and with in-kind donations, SHPR can offer dogs comfy blankets, chew toys, dog-friendly plushies, food, and treats. We have wish lists on both Chewy.com and Amazon.com. Check them out here: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2D380HHW3I39G/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1 https://www.chewy.com/g/south-hills-pet-rescue_b74871338

VOLUNTEER: SHPR always welcomes new volunteers! Whether it's taking one of our dogs out for a walk and playtime around the grounds, transporting dogs to and from vet appointments, or helping with our many special events, SHPR needs YOU! Fill out an application on our website and send it to our volunteer coordinator, Marji Dickson atmdickson@southhillspetrescue.org. Consider becoming a member of the SHPR's family of volunteers today!