

Smokey vs. the Coyote

“A little Diehard and his family learn the value of Friends”.

By Carole Fry Owen

Smokey is a Rescue Scottie placed by West Texas Scottie Rescue (WTSR) in 2011. He came into the care of WTSR from a small-town shelter in the Fort Worth area, arriving out West in the dead of winter. Due to an unusually cold and icy winter, adoptions were moving slowly, and Smokey spent two months in the care of WTSR. It quickly became apparent to everyone who met him that Smokey was a true Diehard, and a wonderful example of the traits that all Scottie lovers hold dear.



WTSR's Jeanne Campbell and Linda Hill, with Smokey, at adoption, 2011. Photo WTSR.

When this special boy moved to Gun Barrel City, TX, a piece of the hearts of each of the three WTSR coordinators went with him. Smokey enjoyed three wonderful years with the Jones family. Then on April 7, 2014, Smokey was fighting for his life after a wild animal (probably a coyote) savaged him and the Jones' other Scottie, Sparkle. Scene of the crime was wooded East Texas near a large lake at Gun Barrel City. Criminal elements like Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker found this area a good backwoods hideout during Prohibition, and coyotes still like it.

The sequence of unfortunate events started when someone other than family opened the gate during the night. (That gate is now padlocked.) Once outside next day, being terriers, Smokey and Sparkle took off on an early morning hunt. They became prey instead.

Sparkle died in the coyote attack, and the family desperately wanted to save Smokey. This valiant dog managed to stagger home, as gravely injured as he was. You can imagine the frightening prospect. No one knew how much it would cost to keep Smokey alive and rehabilitate him.

“We knew giving up on Smokey was not an option,” remembers Amber Jones. “I’ve always said my dogs are priceless to me. Now it was time to put my money where my mouth was.” The Jones decided to trust that God would provide a way to save Smokey.



Smokey at Dallas intensive care veterinary clinic in cubicle decorated by his kids, April 2014. Photo, Jones Family

Several days after Smokey was attacked, Amber called WTSR, not to ask for money, but to tell them what had happened. WTSR saw that expenses were soaring with no end in sight. WTSR’s decision was made very quickly. Smokey was one of theirs and they would do everything in their power to help. Knowing how much Jones family loved him further fueled the determination to give him a fighting chance. WTSR stepped in first with a \$500 donation to the Gun Barrel clinic. They later added more.

Then Texas Scottie Rescue Fund (TSRF), a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit group which raises money to help Scottie Rescues in Texas, joined Smokey’s team. TSRF offered to match up to \$1,500 any donations which might be sent to “Smokey’s Special Appeal” on the TSRF Facebook page. That would add a possible \$3,000 to defray Smokey’s expenses. TSRF announced the appeal on April 11, with a deadline of April 26. Two short weeks to raise money for Smokey. But our goal was surpassed!



Smokey with snazzy bandaging and vet tech.
Photo, Animal Diagnostic Clinic, Dallas, April 2014



Dressed up and nowhere to go. “Go Home” day was delayed when food stopped staying down.
Photo, April 2014, Animal Diagnostic Clinic, Dallas

Thanks to PayPal, donating to Smokey's Special Appeal was very easy for our Facebook Friends. PayPal does charge a small fee, but TSRF covered that, and every penny donated went to Smokey's care.

Smokey's long road to recovery started at his own veterinarian's, Lakeside Animal Clinic in Gun Barrel City with Dr. Jim Collinsworth. With a weekend coming up, he needed round-the-clock attention, plus additional intricate surgery and wound care, so Smokey was transferred to Animal Diagnostic Clinic in Dallas. His saga there continued for almost two high dollar weeks. Smokey's final bills totaled almost \$10,000 at the two Dallas surgery and intensive care specialty clinics and his home veterinary clinic. The Jones' family visited him in Dallas every other day. Smokey became a favorite of the veterinary staff and Dr. Brandy Porterpan in Dallas.

Little did we know the impact Facebook would have. TSRF "Friends" gave, and gave more. People couldn't get enough of Smokey, and still ask about him. TSRF added a Smokey Facebook "post" almost every day of the two-week campaign. Smokey's top post got 4,818 "hits!"

Smokey captured the hearts of Scottie and terrier owners all over the U.S., and, in fact, the world. To our knowledge, this is the first time that Scottie owners coast-to-coast, and worldwide, have come together to help a Scottie with a huge need. The Scottie World is indeed one big family.

TSRF received donations of \$5,690 from Texas, 22 other states, Canada, Australia and Korea. With those contributions plus what TSRF itself added for Smokey, TSRF paid \$7,314.50, which covered all his intensive care clinic bill, and part of his Dallas surgery and local clinic bills.

Texas has four STCA-affiliated Rescue groups: West Texas Scottie Rescue, North Texas Scottie Rescue, San Antonio Area Scottie & Westie Rescue and Westie & Scottie Rescue Houston. Texas Scottie Rescue Fund is their constant cheerleader and helps them with special needs Rescues with greater than usual veterinary expense. Even an over-the-top dog like Smokey became possible with cooperative efforts!

Please visit Texas Scottie Rescue Fund Facebook and "Friend" us. Smokey's posts are archived in April and May, 2014. Some of the posts are "Smokey Soldiers On," "Smokey is Turning the Corner," "Smokey Wagged His Tail



Smokey and his Jones Girls. July 2014.
Photo, Jones family

Yesterday,” “Tomorrow is the Day! Smokey’s Going Home,” “All Dressed Up Yesterday, And No Place to Go,” “Smokey is a Homeboy. Hurrah!” Check the Facebook pictures, and read the posts. You’ll fall for Smokey, too.

Watch for TSRF’s online auction February 12-19, 2015, for lots of collectibles and Scottie “stuff.” We welcome donated items, and bidders!

Three months after Smokey was attacked by a coyote, his spider web scarring is covered with fresh coat, and he looks like a new dog. The Jones family is endlessly grateful for help the Scottie world gave Smokey.

“Maybe if you can imagine the looks on our three children’s faces, us playing with Smokey in the yard and cuddling with him on the couch, the new baby on the way falling in love with him, and the joy we all feel in our hearts to have Smokey home with us again, maybe those images will properly express our gratitude. Thank you, once again for being a part of our miracle,” wrote Amber Jones May 9, on TSRF Facebook.

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Smokey healed with hair, six weeks after coyote attack. Stitches removed; scars almost invisible.
Photo, Jones family; May 2014



Back home in Gun Barrel City, TX
Smokey with his kids, May 2014.
Photo, Jones family

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