

Hero to the Rescue



The Memoir of an Unlikely Hero

by Heddie Wittlin-Leger

The purposes of this book are threefold:

1. To help people learn that puppies can be taught at a young age successfully.
2. To teach people that Rottweilers are great dogs, but must be trained properly, just like any other dog. Socialization and communication make all the difference with any dog. It is up to the human to help the dog learn proper social behavior around other humans and dogs. Any dog that demonstrates antisocial behavior or inappropriate behavior needs proper education regarding interactions to help him or her learn proper behaviors.
3. To help people understand that *cancer doesn't always mean the end of life, but can be a new way of living*. It means that we all have challenges of some kind, whether they are health-related or otherwise. The way that we live, what we do with our lives, and our quality of life are what matter most. Also cancer can be survived for varying lengths of time. Doctors can guess how long a person or an animal fighting cancer may be able to survive, but doctors can be mistaken. Cancer can and does go into remission. For different people and animals struggling with various forms of cancer, time spent in remission can vary widely. It's what happens during that remaining time that really counts, not how long the remission time lasts.



Hero at three weeks of age

Hero was not breathing when he was born on March 4, 2002. Dr. Joe Howard, the veterinarian, did puppy CPR on Hero immediately and revived him. Then the puppy could breathe on his own.

The vet named the puppy Hero. The doctor believed that Hero's life had been spared for an important reason. Dr. Howard had no idea how very true that belief would turn out to be.

Hero was like all puppies when they are little. He was very cute. However, ...



*Hero at six weeks of age with his Rottweiler Aunt T.J. at home
with his first owners Dr. and Mrs. Foster*

Puppies don't stay small for very long. Hero lived with two very nice people named Dr. and Mrs. Foster and his Rottweiler Aunt T.J.

Hero's Aunt T.J. was about eight or nine years old when the Fosters got Hero as a puppy. They had wanted another Rottweiler, because they knew T.J. was getting older. They didn't want to wait until she died and then be without a dog.

Hero was such a calm puppy that the breeder, Debbie Coon at Double D Rottweilers, thought it would be a great match. She was right. It was.

Hero really loved Mrs. Foster very much.



Hero was very smart and liked learning new things. He learned manners at a very young age. Most puppies can learn commands like Sit, Down, and Stay when they're young. They can also learn to come to their owners (*recall*), walk well on a leash, meet people and other dogs politely, ride in a car well, watch their owners, and wait at a given door or at a different location.





He learned his lessons by using *clicker training*. Clicker training is a positive way to teach dogs. The clicker's clicking sound tells dogs that they have done something good and that a reward is coming.

For any pet, learning new things can be like putting a puzzle together. With clicker training, the puzzle pieces seem to fit together better and more easily.