



NJ AID FOR ANIMALS
Advocacy. Action. Impact.

Acceptance speech at the ASPCA 2019 “Dog of the Year” dinner and award reception for Sweet Pea
- By Kathy McGuire, President of NJ Aid for Animals (NJFA) -

What about the others?

The ones that slip through the cracks, left in garbage dumps, left to die in the woods or who never make it out of the shelter?

Pit bulls like Sweet Pea used for dog fighting and bait dogs then discarded like trash.

Over half of you believe that dog fighting never happens in your community, saying that if it was happening you would know.

I know this metric is true because I bought a house in 2004 that was part of the largest dogfighting ring on the east coast for four years and neighbors claimed they never knew.

But fewer than 1/3 of you are confident that you would recognize it. Almost all of you (92%) say that you would contact local authorities, but sadly only 50% of you actually do. These are statistics right from ASPCA website.

Sweet Pea was one of the lucky ones. Had NJ Aid for Animals not been at our local shelter on April 17, 2015 looking for another dog that was abused and I happened to stumble onto Sweet Pea I would not be here and Sweet Pea would certainly not be here as she was scheduled to be destroyed after being held the obligatory 7 days.

What about the others?

All the blocky headed canine pit bull types that are maligned, abused, and overlooked in the shelters and are also part of breed specific legislation, or BSL, that is labeling pit bulls as dangerous dogs because of their breed just because of what they look like. All over the country including Canada. In 2007 in Toledo, Ohio the dog warden went door-to-door taking 500 pit bulls including puppies from their owners to euthanize due to Breed specific legislation another challenge that states and cities do not allow pit bulls due to their breed.

What about the others?

We are proud to say that one of NJ Aid for Animals esteemed board members, Ms. Flora Edwards is the attorney that wrote the brief that got the Michael Vick dogs to Best Friends and was instrumental in making BSL illegal in New Jersey. The formidable Flora Edwards Stand up

NJ Aid for Animals recently testified at the New Jersey State Assembly to change language in a statute that makes it more difficult to label a pit bull as dangerous if the dog was part of a dog fighting ring.

On a smaller scale but just like the ASCA we are all working to end dog fighting and Breed specific legislation.

Sweet Pea is the spirit of the quintessential pitbull not only as the Dog of the Year but as the State of NJ Official Face of Dog Fighting Awareness. We are honored to accept this prestigious award from the ASPCA on behalf of all the others who did not and will not make it

What about you

I know you are asking yourself what can I do

Don't be a statistic of only 50% that report dog fighting. And just like we should not be labelling each other, we should not be labelling our dogs.

Get involved, educate yourself on how to recognize dog fighting and then report it. Volunteer, or donate - whether to the ASPCA, in support of their never-ending battle finding, recognizing, and reporting dogfighting for successful prosecution and adjudication, or to NJ Aid for Animals, in support of our all-volunteer small but mighty nonprofit established in 2005 to promote advocacy, action, and impact, for the pit bull breed. Like Sweet Peas' fb page to keep the momentum going on her story and help spread awareness

Or better yet ADOPT a pit bull and have a friend for life.

What about you? What about the others