

(Text of the e-mail I sent on 1/15/07 to about a dozen friends.):

I will not let this go . . . without at least *trying* to raise some awareness.

The two pictures that are attached are hard to look at, but I hope you do. At the very least, please read:

These photos were sent to me today (01/15/07) by Cheryl Postma, the director of the Animal Shelter of Crawford County, Michigan. The dog, a 1 year old male yellow lab, had crawled (he could not walk) into a woman's car port. Naturally, when the woman discovered the animal, she was hysterical. She immediately covered the dog with blankets and contacted animal control, who brought the dog to the shelter. Beyond that, it is not yet known how this dog reached the deplorable state we see in the photos. He is obviously in the very last stages of starvation, having been without food and water for quite some time. **In all reality, this dog was probably only hours - if not minutes - from death.** He has obviously been trapped in a confined space, and it is all too clear that he has been living in his own excrement during this period.

I'd like to think this is an accident, that, somehow, this was just a tragic mistake. But how? The dog has a collar . . . he belonged to someone. He counted on someone to care for him.

Go ahead. Take a look at the pictures.

The shelter workers and volunteers have named him 'Thor', because he needs to gain a lot of strength. The director is personally taking care of the dog, as he is in constant need of food and water. Cheryl and Thor are together 24/7, at least until he is well . . . which will be a while. But he *is* getting better. Cheryl tells me that yesterday, Thor actually had the strength to wag his tail a little bit.

Yes, taking care of Thor is costing money. The ASCC receives no public funding. If you aren't able to send a donation to the shelter, that's fine. The purpose of this note to you is not to solicit funds. But please take a just a moment to drop shelter director Cheryl Postma a note of encouragement. Tell her that she's doing a great thing. It won't cost you a single penny. It will take you ten seconds to send something like "Keep up the great work!" I promise you it'll make her day, but it will cost you nothing.

Lastly, if you find yourself as disgusted, enraged, and infuriated as my wife and I are, PLEASE forward this along to others. Many people don't want to have to see images such as this, but it is absolutely necessary if we are going to make a difference. **This is happening in our backyard, and yours, too!** Awareness is the key to unlock the door of action.

ASCC Director Cheryl Postma's e-mail address is: wedare2care@provide.net

Physical address

Animal Shelter of Crawford County

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508 1/2 Huron St
Grayling MI 49738
Phone: (989) 348-4117

And don't forget . . . there is probably a shelter in your area that might need help. Give them a call and see what you can do locally!