

STATEMENT OF RICHARD XXXXX

To whom it may concern,

My name is Richard XXXXX, I reside at XXXXXXXX, Bay City, Michigan, 48706. I am currently fostering one of the labs rescued in Roscommon that was named Rocky. His new name is Trooper to signify his surviving a horrible situation that would have resulted in his death.

The evening I picked him up, Trooper was a pitiful looking bag of bones. It was obvious that he was scared to death and unsure of his fate. After our initial greeting, I proceeded to look him over to try to find anything that needed my immediate attention. The first thing I noticed was that around his mouth, his flesh was rubbed raw, so much so that his black skin was a bright pink color. Then I looked at his ears, they had a white crust on them that was dead tissue all the way around the edges. He was filthy, smelled horrible, and could barely stand on his own.

Once I convinced him that I was going to help him and not hurt him, he agreed to enter my home. Trooper needed a bath desperately. I put him in the stand up shower, stepped in with him and closed the door behind me. Trooper was shaking uncontrollably and could not stand on his home by then, so I held him up as I bathed him. As soon as the warm water touched his fur, to my horror, his fur was dropping to the shower floor in huge clumps as if it wasn't even attached to his frail body.

Once we had finished his bath and dried him with a blow drier, I set a bowl of food in front of him. Trooper went from calm, to completely frantic, trying to scarf the food down as fast as he could, like he had never eaten before. Having never witnessed something like this, I just looked on in complete shock.

In the days after his arrival, I noticed many other things about Trooper. He was filled with anxiety, and would pace the floors continuously at all hours. He was very skittish and restless as well. Fast movements and noises would cause him to cower and jump. Also, Trooper was petrified of stairs to the point that he would completely freeze up when you placed him on the steps. If I would not have picked him up and removed him, he would have stayed there forever...

I have been fostering Trooper now for approximately a month and a half. He still exhibits some of the problems he had when I first picked him up, and in my opinion, may never be free of them...

Sincerely,

Richard XXXXX

Bay City, MI