

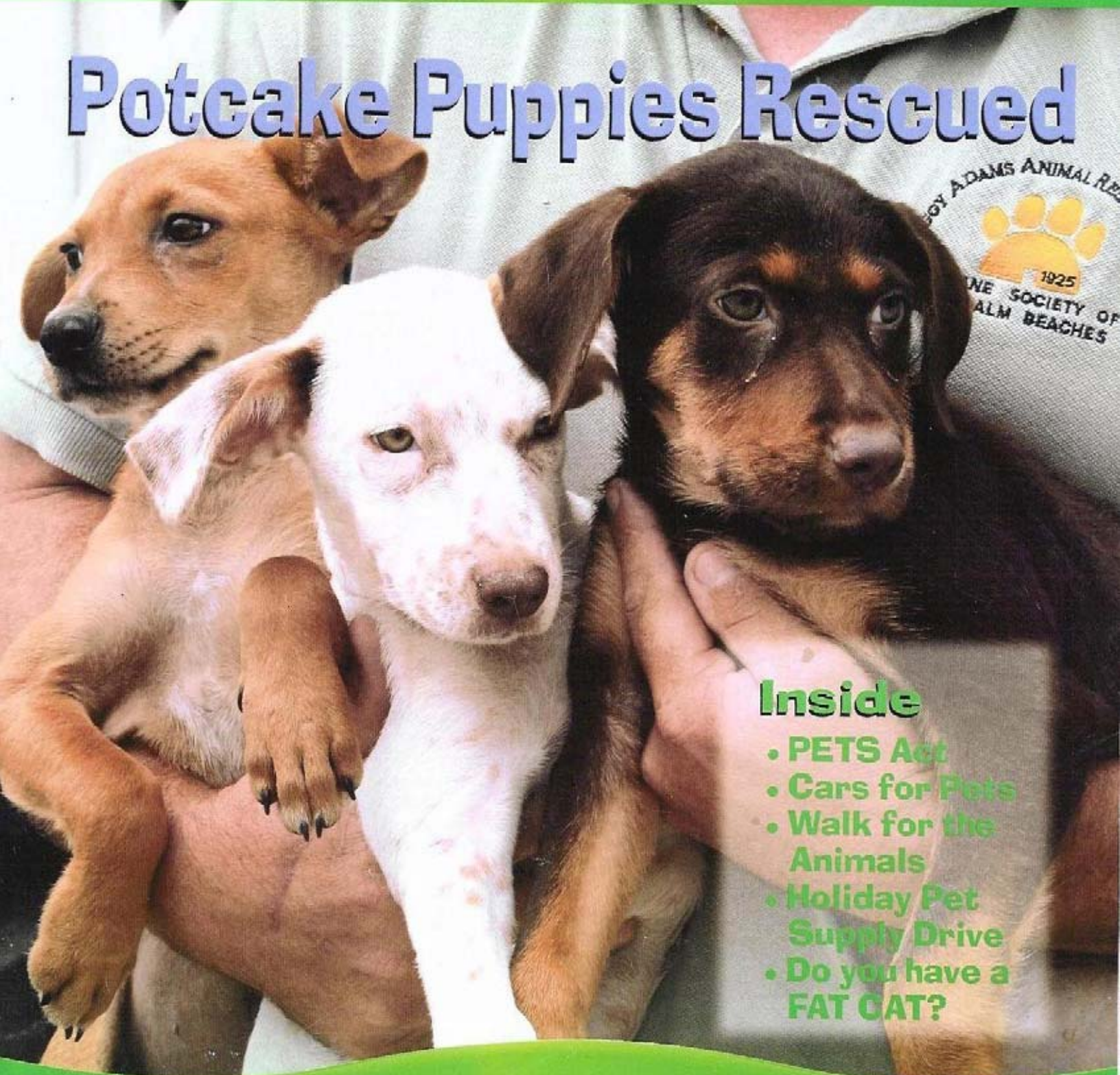
Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League

# Paw Prints

Fall/Winter 2006/07

We speak for those who can't speak for themselves

## Potcake Puppies Rescued



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# Bahamas Potcake Puppies Airlifted to Florida

Over 78 puppies have been airlifted from the Grand Bahamas to take up temporary residence at Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League. The puppies, known in the Bahamas as Potcakes, are mixed breed dogs. The puppies, ranging in age from eight weeks to four months, came from The Humane Society of Grand Bahamas, which has dubbed this project, "Operation Puppy Lift."

Because of a pet overpopulation explosion in the Bahamas, these puppies would have been euthanized if not for the assistance of the Animal Rescue League. Three such mercy missions have been coordinated by the Animal Rescue League from July to October 2006.

It is estimated that there are well over 50,000 dogs in the Bahamas, many of which are on the streets, underfed, not vaccinated, vulnerable to disease and road traffic as well as being targeted by individuals with rocks.

A "potcake" is the Bahamian term for

the thick, congealed food that remains in the bottom of a pot of peas and rice after several reheatings. Traditionally, Bahamians feed potcake to the indigent dogs that freely populate the Bahamas. Hence the dogs have come to be known as Potcakes.

Although officially considered mixed breed dogs, Potcakes are recognized as a bred dog in the Bahamas. Depending on what genes are available on any Bahamian island,

Potcakes strongly resemble each other.

A Potcake is genetically engineered to tolerate heat, long term physical stress, extreme competition for food and low protein diet.

Potcakes are best suited to people who understand and conscientiously practice positive reinforcement training techniques. House training can begin as young as eight weeks old; paper training and the desire not to soil their nest seems almost instinctual in Potcakes.

Potcakes are extremely intelligent and quick witted. They are beautifully graceful runners and intuitively empathic.

Executive Director of Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League, Carl Leveridge says nothing could be better than saving the lives of these puppies. The organization, he says, will continue to help The Bahamas in its pet overpopulation problem. "We love these little puppies. Our mission is to save lives and control pet overpopulation so every animal has a home," he said.

The first set of puppies were flown over by GB Express Ltd. free of charge and the Humane Society of Grand Bahamas paid for the health certificates before the puppies were flown to Florida. Subsequent flights have been underwritten by

a generous benefactor.

When the puppies arrived at the Ft. Lauderdale airport, they were met by Animal Rescue League staff aboard the PetMobile and Heike Dose. Dose adopted a potcake in December and has been instrumental in Operation Puppy Lift project. Once the puppies were aboard the air-conditioned RV,



One of the first Bahamian Potcakes to arrive at Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League.



ARL staff transfers the puppies from the air kennels to cages onboard the PetMobile.

they quickly fell asleep for the last leg of their journey to West Palm Beach.

Once at the Animal Rescue League, each puppy was thoroughly evaluated by a staff veterinarian, and some puppies were treated for minor skin conditions. Once the puppies receive a clean bill of health, they are spayed or neutered, microchipped, vaccinated, and placed in adoption.



These Potcake siblings arrived together to find forever homes in West Palm Beach.



Carl Leveridge, Executive Director, assists in transferring the puppies onto the PetMobile.

