

We received a call from a local animal shelter asking if we could take Java and her babies. Our immediate response, *absolutely!* One of our volunteers picked up this sweet girl and her babies. Java was not in great shape and this definitely was not her first litter of puppies. She loved her puppies and was a bit protective of them, but we noticed that Java was not producing as much milk as was needed to nurse seven puppies, so we had to remove three of the puppies and place them with a bottle feeding volunteer. Java weaned her puppies at a very young age and now it was her turn to receive medical treatment. Several people had met this girl and we knew that once her medical issues were resolved, Java had a permanent home waiting for her.

As the couple who were going to adopt her prepared for the arrival of their new family member, Java was placed in a wonderful foster home to begin her journey to recovery, beginning with surgery to remove tumors which had developed due to over breeding. Her foster mom took her on car rides and she got to sleep in a bed, most likely for the first time. At last, she was part of a family. Appointments were made to begin the removal of the tumors. Java's foster mom took her in for surgery to remove the tumors. Unfortunately, we received the dreaded phone call that afternoon that Java didn't make it. She passed away in recovery. Everything was done to save this precious girl's life. She just had too many things going against her. Needless to say, everyone who had been involved with her care was devastated. The absolute worst phone call we had to make was to her foster mom and to the lovely couple who were going to bring this precious girl into their home.

We believe if Java could give a message to us, it would be to not mourn her. She had the best month of her life with the Humane Society of Washington County. She had a real family and people who cared about her. We know Java felt a lifetime of happiness in that short period. She leaves behind her legacy and seven beautiful babies. Java would want us to honor her by finding families for her precious children who will love them as much as she did.

Java's body was cremated and we are going to do something very special with her ashes.

## Java's Legacy

Unfortunately, Java's story is not an isolated incidence. We see instances of neglect and/or abuse much more often than you would like to think. We have rescued animals who have been tied up for so long that their collars have become embedded in their skin, animals who had troubled deliveries and the babies died and started to decay inside their body, animals who have been burned from acid being thrown on them and many other instances of cruelty. We do as much as we can for these animals and have many success stories, but we would love to be able to step up in more situations and say; "We can help". What keeps that from happening you might ask; well, that would be funding. We operate strictly on donations and unfortunately the funds are not always available for us to follow our hearts. Java touched so many of us in such a way that we knew we wanted to have a lasting tribute to her, and what better way than for her to lend us name to a fund to be used for the care of animals suffering from neglect/cruelty as she was; thus the conception of Java's Fund. Everyone many not be able to give hands on help in situations such as these, but you can be a part by simply opening your heart and giving to the Fund which will enable us and the wonderful veterinarians and volunteers we work with to save, treat and give these animals the love and life they deserve.

