

Letters to the Editor

Jake 34 needs 'forever' home

The following was submitted by Plainville residents Jay and Liz Nyczak as a letter to the editor on behalf of Jake 34, a dog available for adoption. See photo on page 17.

Dear Santa,

My name is Jake and I was born in Alabama about 7-1/2 years ago. I spent most my life in Alabama with a family who loved me very much.

But I experienced a string of very, very, bad luck in spring 2008. The house my family owned had to be sold and for reasons I'll never understand, my family tied me to a fence and left me alone outside. The nice real estate lady who found me untied me and took me to a local shelter. I lived there through the summer of 2008. It was a scary and unfamiliar place for me.

There were so many other dogs barking and making noises that I learned to be afraid of dogs. That's why, when I meet a dog, I have to growl and show my teeth, because deep down inside, I'm really afraid.

I stayed at that shelter in Alabama all summer, until a lady from Labs for Rescue (www.labs4rescue.com) took me with her. I made the long trip to Connecticut, where I now live with my foster Mommy and Daddy.

I may not do too well with other animals, but people, including kids of all ages, oh, man, do I really love them. I give kisses and can't get enough of hugs and belly rubs. My favorite pastime is to sit in the kitchen and keep company with my foster Mommy as she cooks. My foster Daddy gives me nice baths and trims my nails and even brushes my teeth! I love all the attention.

It's still so hard to be left alone! I get all nervous and worried that no one will come back; so I start to pace and bark and make a fuss. And while I'm on the subject of what I don't like, you could add crates to that short list.

My foster Daddy and Mommy took me to a nice lady — I think you call her a veterinarian in people language — and she listened to my heart and took some blood and said it's okay to start on some herbs to make me calmer. Mommy places them in some ground-up meat, and "mmm" ... they taste okay!

Maybe pretty soon I'll feel a little better and not so nervous about Mommy and Daddy leaving me home alone.

Mrs. Marie, the really, really nice lady at Our Companions Animal Sanctuary (www.ourcompanions.org) does my companion animal training. She gives me tasty treats whenever I sit and stay as another dog walks by. Mommy says we are working with Mrs. Marie so, maybe someday soon; I will be able to be in the company of other doggies. Wouldn't that be nice?

So, dear Santa, if you could please ask around if there is a family who might take me in forever and love me just like I know I could love them?

I know you'll be visiting a lot of homes on Christmas. Please put in a good word for me.

**Jake 34, and foster parents Jay and Liz Nyczak
Plainville**

Pets need homes

Submitted photo

Several months ago, a Plainville family found three kittens abandoned in a box by the side of a road. Homes were found for two of the kittens. However, the third cat, Coco, below right, needs a new family now because the children who live in the home are highly allergic to the feline. The calico short-haired cat is described as spunky and loving. To adopt the cat or for more information, call Kris at (860) 543-1378. The dog, Jake 34, below, who has been fostered by a Plainville couple, needs a 'forever' home. See letter on page 12.

