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ASPCA Grant Helps Detroit Bully Corps Fight Heartworm to Save a Dog's Life

Lapeer, Michigan – When Detroit Bully Corps transferred three dogs out Detroit Animal Care & Control last October, they knew the odds were high that one or all of the dogs could have heartworm. Animals contract heartworm after being bitten by a mosquito that is infected with the disease.

“Heartworm in the metro Detroit area is at near epidemic levels,” says Detroit Bully Corps co-founder Missi Bellottie. “According to officials at DACC, about half of the dogs entering their shelter have heartworm, which is putting a huge strain on the rescue groups who are trying to help save lives.”

Pets can be protected from contracting heartworm by receiving a monthly preventative prescribed by a veterinarian. Detroit Bully Corps is part of the PAWS in the D coalition made up of 15 rescue groups investigating ways to help low-income pet owners afford this life-saving medication.

Of the three dogs that DBC pulled that day, one did in fact test positive for heartworm. Treatment takes six months and all activity must be restricted during that time to prevent the foot-long worms from damaging the heart and lungs. Depending on the severity of the condition, medication costs can easily exceed \$1,000 for medications and testing, which puts a financial strain on non-profit animal rescue organizations that do not receive state or federal funding and rely on the generosity of others through donations.

To help ease the financial burden, Detroit Bully Corps reached out to the ASPCA for help. Through the Lil BUB's Big Grant for the ASPCA, DBC received \$500 to help care for the dog, now named Austin. Last month Austin completed his heartworm treatment and was given the all clear to be neutered and microchipped. He is now ready for adoption into a permanent home. In fact, he has a meet-and-greet this Saturday with a potential adopter. Fingers crossed it's a good match!

Detroit Bully Corps is a leader in the animal rescue community and well known for successfully rehabilitating dogs in very poor condition requiring extensive medical care. The rehabilitation process also includes basic obedience training and socialization with people, other animals and every day sights, sounds and smells. Dogs typically don't get this type of care and training in a typical shelter environment. The process often takes several months before a dog is ready to be adopted into a forever home. DBC currently has 16 adoptable dogs looking for homes, including the three pulled from DACC last October: Austin, Yukon and Jeeves.

About Detroit Bully Corps

Detroit Bully Corps is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Lapeer dedicated to rescuing and rehabilitating bully breeds, especially the American Pit Bull Terrier. For more information, please visit www.DBCdogs.org or www.facebook.com/DetroitBullyCorps

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