

# Black Dog Syndrome causes many dogs to be euthanized

**BY CAROL CARIDAD**

*President, Paws 4 You Rescue*



*Why are so many black dogs not adopted?*

The public is simply not aware of how doomed black dogs are when they are brought to an animal shelter. If you haven't heard the phrase *Black Dog Syndrome*, you are not alone. But to animal shelters and pet rescue operations across the country, this is a common and very real situation. Black Dog Syndrome refers to the theory that black dogs are more likely to be passed over for adoption and therefore more likely to be euthanized at a horrifying rate. Some of the reasons given by would be adopters are:

- It is more difficult to see and connect with a black dog in a poorly lit kennel. Some people walk right by without noticing them because the dark colored dogs cannot be seen behind the bars or wires of a cage.
- Black dogs do not photograph as well as lighter-colored dogs because it is not easy to distinguish their features and their true expressions. If they have any gray or white hairs on their face, they often appear older than their real age.
- Some believe black dogs will bring them bad luck or are perceived as menacing.
- Some rescue people will say that by ratio there are more black dogs available in shelters because black is a dominant gene color in the canine pool of genetics.

There is absolutely no scientific evidence to support the position that color has any bearing whatsoever on temperament, health, or overall quality of any dog, regardless of breed.

## Paws4You

More information on Black Dog Syndrome can be found on a website run by a woman with a mission to educate people on the subject, *Contrary to the Ordinary: the Black Pearls of the Dog World*, at <[www.blackpearldogs.com](http://www.blackpearldogs.com)>.

The next time you visit a shelter or rescue group, pay special attention to the beautiful black dogs and cats waiting to be noticed. Give them a chance to find their way into your heart and home.

### WANT A PUPPY?

Thinking about adopting a black puppy today? Joey is a 4-month-old black lab mix pulled from the euthanasia list at Animal Services and was nothing but skin and bones (no hair!) when we rescued him. Please call 786-242-7377 or email <[carol@paws4you.org](mailto:carol@paws4you.org)> to meet him. He is a special little boy.

Also, visit our web site for a list of our other adoptable pets, along with additional information on our organization. We are at Petsmart (Falls location) every Sunday from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. introducing our dogs to potential owners like yourself.

Make plans to sign up for our annual Putt 4 Paws Golf Tournament on Oct. 8. All proceeds benefit Paws4You Rescue.

*Carol Caridad is president of Paws 4 You Rescue, a not-for-profit volunteer organization dedicated to saving animals from euthanasia, re-homing abandoned pets, providing necessary medical treatment and educating the community on the importance of spaying and neutering pets. Caridad may be contacted by calling 786-242-7377 or by addressing email to [carol@paws4you.org](mailto:carol@paws4you.org).*