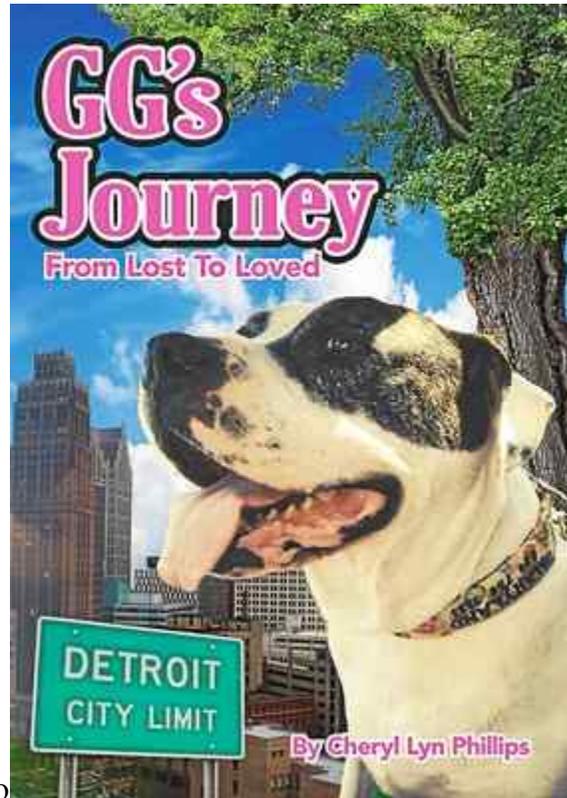


OAKLAND PRESS

Entertainment

Urban trapper shares the forever-home story of abandoned dog in “GG”



Northville resident Cheryl Phillips puts a cat in her car after trapping the animal in Detroit. Courtesy Cheryl Phillips

Darcell Brown, For Digital Media First

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Author Cheryl Phillips wrote the story of GG, a dog adopted from the street in Detroit. Courtesy Cheryl Phillips

When the weekend rolls around many of us relax by watching a football game, going to a movie or taking leisurely nature walks.

Cheryl Phillips of Northville spends her weekends packing up her car with traps, food and water, and hitting the streets of Detroit looking for abandoned cats and dogs living on the harsh streets.

It is Phillips' mission to trap, neuter and release as many feral cats as she can.

“Rescuing and TNR is one of the most personally rewarding experiences in my life, in knowing I am helping to prevent overpopulation and homelessness,” she says.

Phillips dips into her own pocket to fund the TNR at \$80 per cat. Since she began this journey in 2012, she has trapped and spayed/neutered more than 100 felines and has rescued dozens of abandoned dogs.

Phillips' passion for animals developed when she was a young child and would visit her great grandparent's dairy farm in Rochester.

“It was there I learned to treat animals with kindness and respect,” she says.

One animal that changed her life was a 3-year-old pitbull mix that was resting under a tree in Detroit on a very hot day, because she was sick and weak. Phillips named the dog Gorgeous Gal — GG for short — and felt that this dog deserved a chance. It was her right, she thought. GG inspired Phillips to write a book, “GG's Journey: From Lost to Loved,” which follows GG's lonely and harsh street life to finding her forever home.

Phillips' book will be showcased this Sunday, Oct. 23, at Leon & Lulu's in Clawson as part of the store's Books & Authors event to raise funds for the Oakland Literacy Council.

Phillips' has set up GG's Foundation at ggsjourney.com with her mission being to end animal homelessness, euthanasia of healthy and treatable pets, exploitation, inhumane treatment and animal cruelty.

“When I rescue an animal, I can see and feel the love and gratitude in their eyes for a kind word, a gentle touch, food, water and shelter,” Phillips says.

The funds raised from her website fund animal rescues, TNR to manage feral cat colonies, vaccinations and humane education programs.

- Cheryl Phillips will sign copies of “GG's Journey: From Lost to Loved” at Books & Authors, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 23, at Leon & Lulu, 96 W. 14 Mile Road, Clawson, leonandlulu.com/events/books-authors.