

Illinois dog shot by arrow recovering



Shelby.

GLEN CARBON • A dog that underwent 3 1/2 hours of emergency surgery after being found in Godfrey with an arrow in her abdomen is doing well Saturday at a veterinary hospital here.

Shelby, a female Sheltie mix, was eating small meals and "looking great," said Ashley Weis, a veterinary technician at Hawthorne Animal Hospital.

Jackie Spiker said Madison County Animal Control officers found Shelby along Wenzel Road. Spiker is a cofounder of Alton-based Hope Animal Rescues, a no-kill rescue organization that agreed to take care of her.

Shelby underwent surgery Thursday at Horseshoe Lake Animal Hospital in Collinsville. The arrow was removed as well as her spleen and injured parts of her intestines. Horseshoe Lake doesn't stay open around the clock, so Shelby was transferred to Hawthorne so she could be monitored during recovery.

Spiker said the bills for Shelby's care were nearly \$3,000 and climbing. She said Mark and Jamie Buehrle of St. Charles had offered to pay any expenses that several others had not covered. Mark Buehrle is a pitcher with the Chicago White Sox.

Authorities have not determined who shot Shelby, Spiker said. The Madison County Sheriff's Department continued to investigate, Spiker said.

Authorities learned Shelby's name and identified her former owners through a microchip. When contacted, the owners said Shelby had been missing for about six weeks; they signed papers to surrender her to the rescue organization.

Spiker said seven to 10 days would pass before the shelter determines whether Shelby will regain her health. If she does, Spiker said, "We'll help her find a suitable home as a family pet."

Shelby is about 4 years old and weighs about 30 pounds. Spiker said Shelby was gentle even when she was in agonizing pain.

"She is totally cute," Spiker said.

Shelby's expenses are covered, but Spiker said Hope Animal Rescues always welcomes donations for its ongoing work. For more information about Hope Animal Rescues, visit www.hoperescues.com or call 618-463-9983 or write to the organization at 3701 Coronado Drive, Alton, Ill. 62002.