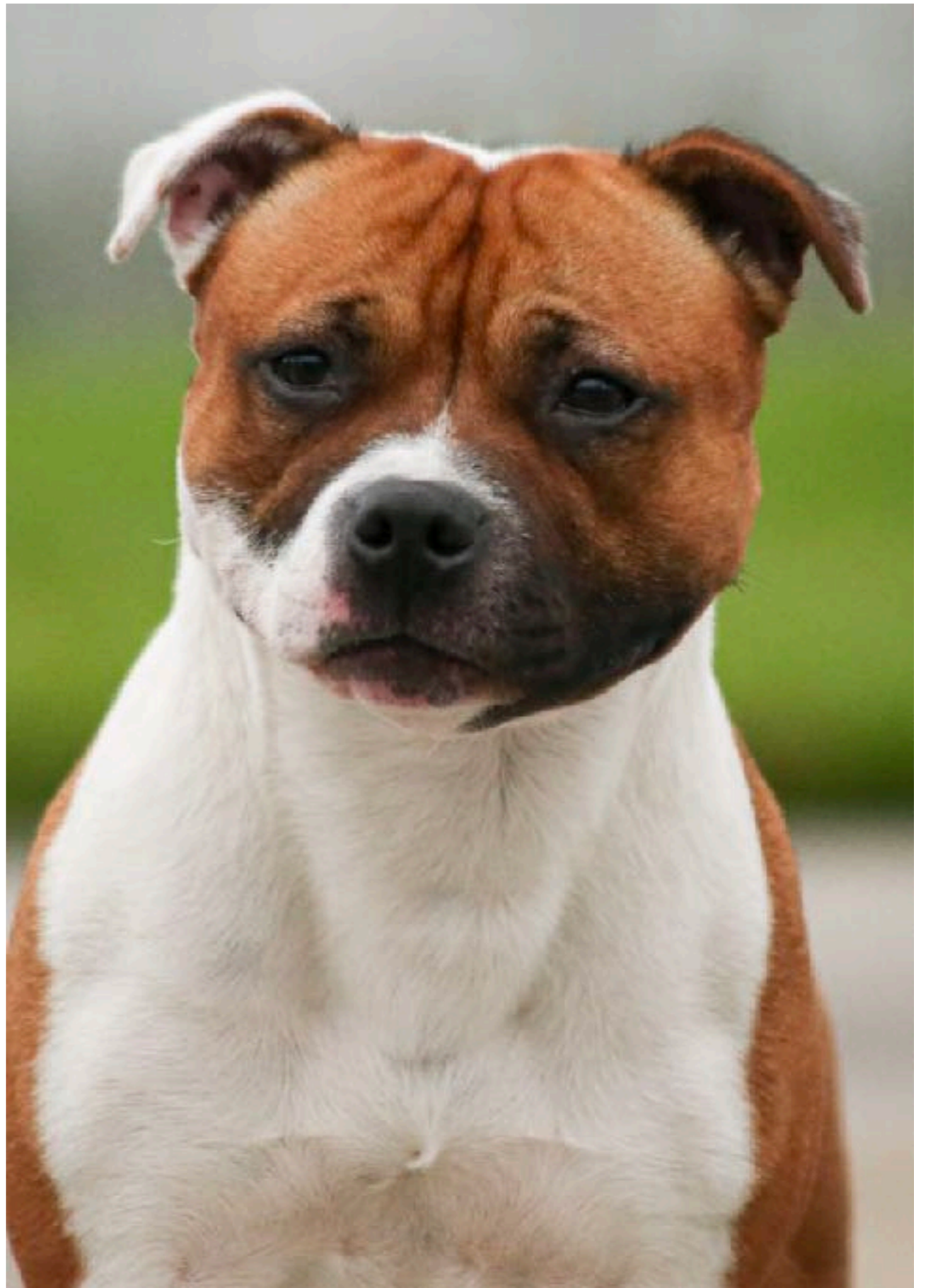


How Carma Came to Our Family



Carma The Staffordshire Bull Terrier

But First There was Bella:

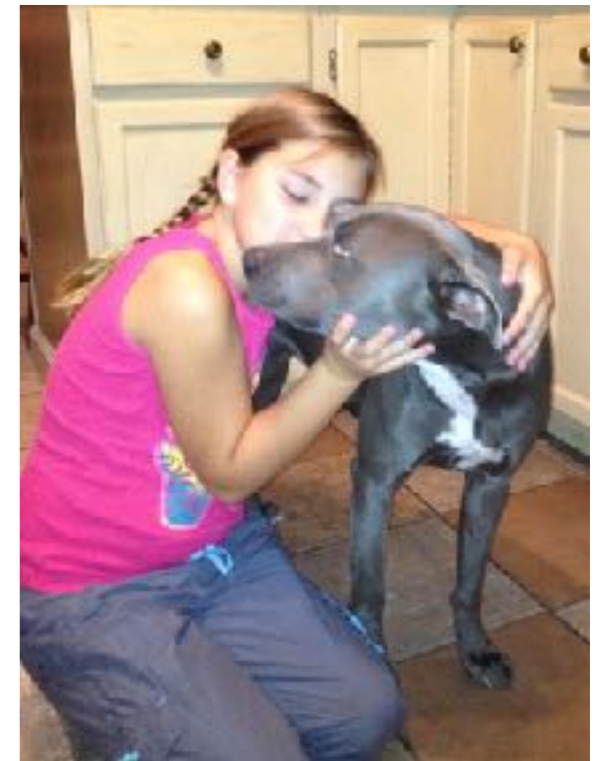
The Prequel to Carma

The road that led Carma to our family began with a blue UKC American Pitbull Terrier named Bella. To know Bella, was to love her! I brought Bella into my family when she was a puppy and she grew up with my children. She was a gentle, goofy soul that like Carma loved everyone. Bella loved to ride in the car and go hiking. She loved stuffed toys and was afraid of storms and cats! Bella was an angel on earth, but she experienced prejudice from some that did not know her out of fear and ignorance created by irresponsible owners that failed to properly train and socialize their dogs and discriminatory legislation that perpetuate prejudice. I fell in love with the breed and became adamantly opposed to breed specific legislation because of her.



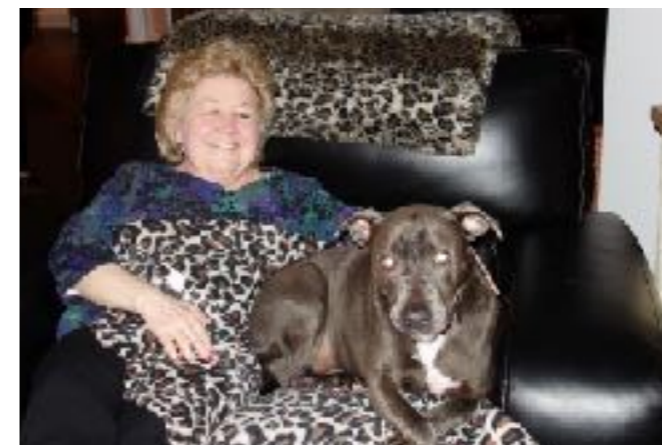


Bella loved to go for rides, but did not like cold weather or weather that was too hot. (Bottom middle is my son, Garret, with blue eyed baby Bella and bottom right my daughter Alix). Alix used to let Bella eat french fries out of her mouth when she was little. They were both with her in her final moments and I was thankful that we were all with her and had the opportunity to say goodbye before she crossed over the rainbow Bridge.





Bella was sweet and sensitive to to the feelings of those around her. She loved spending time with her family and meeting new people. She would stay in bed as long as there was a human with her and she was the best snuggler ever! Bella was smart and liked learning tricks and going to obedience classes. She also liked meeting new people and and other dogs. She loved playing and being silly. Bella could always make me laugh!





Bella was extremely gentle with her Yorkie siblings, all of the other dogs at doggy daycare, and had a healthy respect for cats! She actually avoided them because of an incident with my daughter's cat when she was a puppy. She was also tolerant of my photo shoots. Bella would let me do anything in the world to her such as trim her nails or put her in the shower even though I knew that she did not like it. She trusted me completely and I trusted her with my children, even though my mother did not when I first got Bella. She, like many, feared that the breed was unpredictable and that she might hurt my children. Later, my mother would become one of Bella's biggest fans and could not imagine ever fearing this sweet soul.



Bella, my favorite hiking partner was a constant in my life for 13 precious years. Anytime that she got ahead of me on the trail, she would always look back before she got too far to make sure I was still there. She was there during some very difficult times and some wonderful times too. Too often we take the presence of man's or woman's best friend for granted.



In Nov. 2020, Bella, passed away after a very brief and sudden illness. She was at peace and surrounded by people that loved her. Keith, my son, and my daughter were all present while I stroked her and said goodbye as she laid on her heated bed covered in Keith's wool blanket. She had what most would consider the perfect death. I was devastated. I grieved over losing her like I have never grieved over any human as bad as that may sound. It is still very hard.

Bella was my sweetest hello and my most difficult goodbye. She is greatly missed but will forever be loved and remembered.



Keith, being the compassionate husband that he is, wanted to help ease my suffering. He contacted Mike Work, the handler that showed his Basenji's many years prior, for a recommendation for a reputable breeder of a Pitbull or bully type breed. Mike suggested that Keith contact Amanda Shea of Sheaman Kennels in Ware, MA. Keith reached out and Amanda was expecting a litter in November of Staffordshire Bull Terriers. In November 2020, the same month that Bella passed away, the November 9 Litter was born. I told Keith that I just wanted a fat little puppy to love, but part of the deal was that we would make an effort to show her and try to get her championship. I did not have any experience with the dog show world. In fact, I had never even been to a dog show! But, I NEEDED a dog in our home.

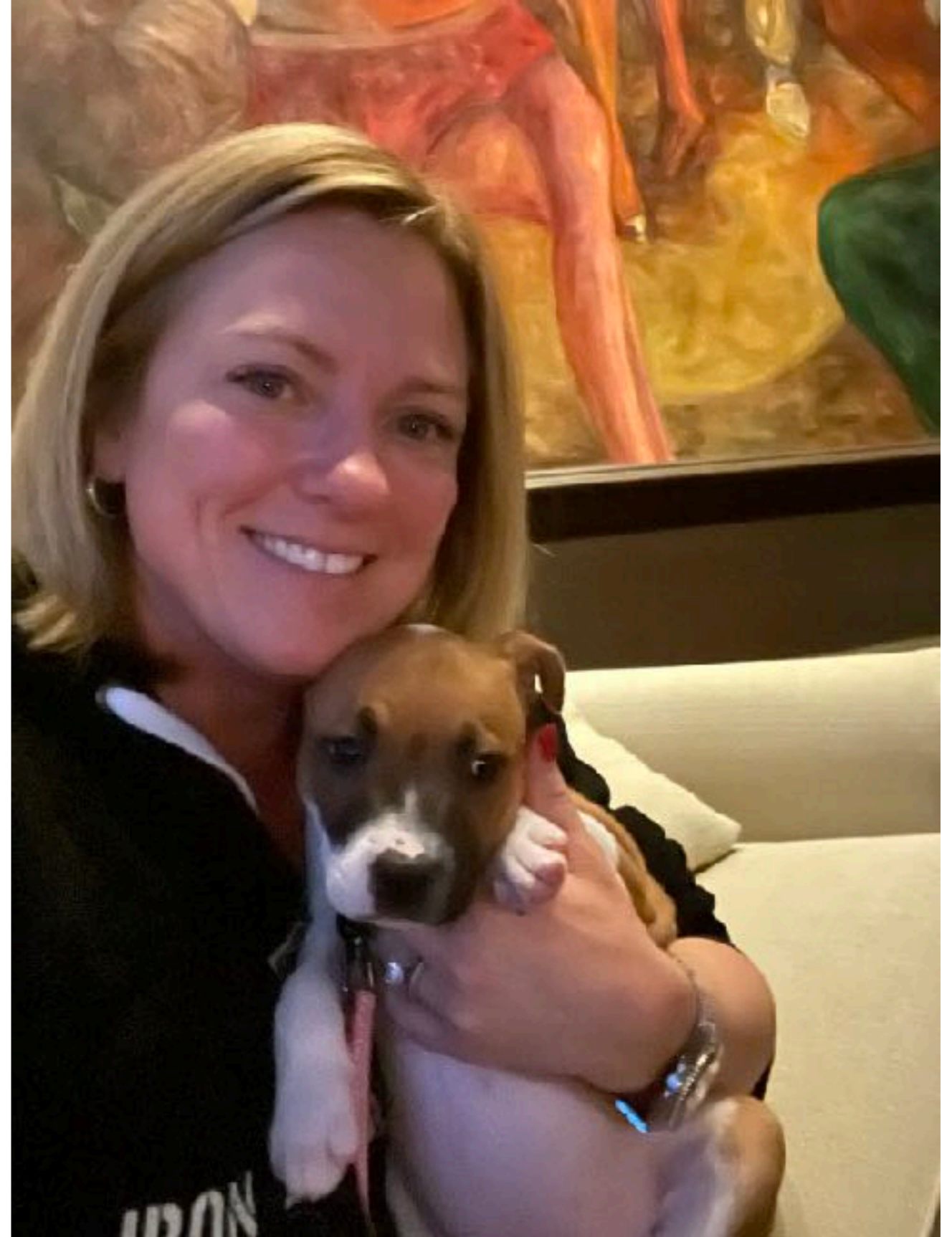


Amanda Shea began sending us pictures of these sweet little puppies with fat bellies and the next thing we knew, we were planning a trip to Massachusetts. We didn't take our Christmas tree down until we brought this little present home because we wanted to celebrate with her.





In January 2021, we flew to Massachusetts to pick up Carma. She was indeed a fat little puppy, and had our hearts from the moment we picked her up. I did not want to put her on a plane and risk her being separated from us or having some type of complication so we rented a vehicle to drive back home to Tennessee with our precious cargo! I convinced Keith it would be fun and that a long road trip would allow us the opportunity to spend time with Carma and get to know her better before returning home.



The first night, we stayed at a hotel in Connecticut after taking her on her first trip to the pet store. She acted like she had been going there her whole life. She was as confident as could be and drew the attention of everyone in the store. I expected that she might be a little shy and/or uncertain, since she had just left her littermates and mother, but it seemed that she never looked back. She was ready to see the world! She slept with us, never cried, and only got up once during the night to go to the bathroom. She was the perfect little puppy!

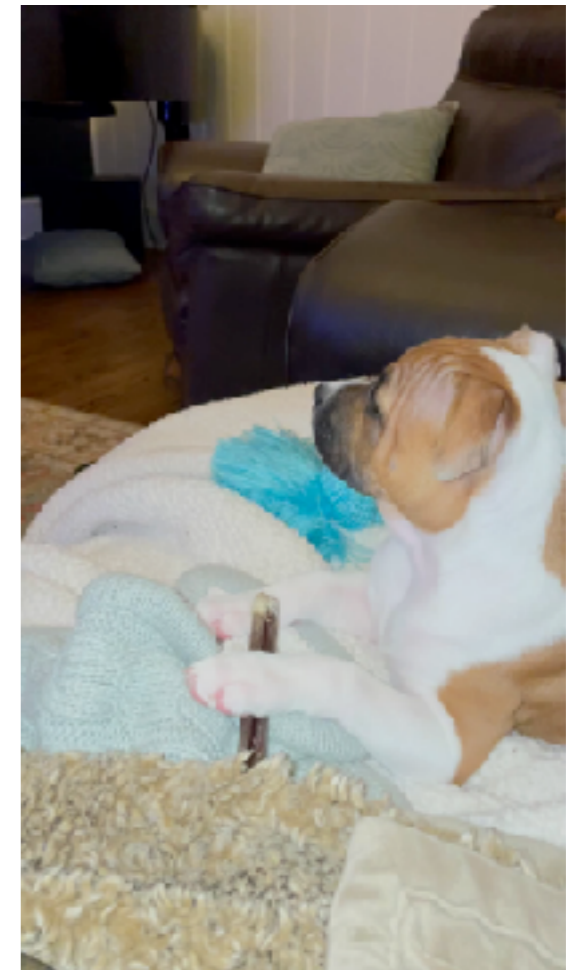


It certainly turned out to be an adventure coming home because a massive snowstorm hit the North East while we were traveling back. We ended up driving through seven states in the snow and ice before getting back to Tennessee. It got so bad that we had to stop and spend the night at the George Washington Hotel in Virginia. Carma was so small that I could put her in my bag and carry her. After we checked in, we went down to the hotel bar to have dinner, and once again Carma was the center of attention. She was confident, self-assured, and she loved the attention and meeting everyone there.





Once we returned home with Carma, her intelligence became more and more apparent. She loved learning new things, going places, and especially loved meeting new people. Carma was the center of attention at home and everywhere else too! Carma's favorite movie was The Lion King and favorite TV Show was The Dog Whisperer. She could not get enough of Buff Cake Barkery's Berry Dog Nuts. We ordered so many treats for Carma from Buff Cake Barkery that they asked her to endorse their brand and submit a picture that they published online! This was only the beginning!



Watching The Lion King



Carma loved for her mom to teach her tricks and was a very quick learner. She enjoyed puzzles and did not mind that mom wanted to put clothes on her. Carma loved fluffy beds and chewing bones. She was always ready to go for a ride.



Carma was the star pupil at her obedience classes at The Obedience Club of Chattanooga. Ms. Devon Brooks was her first teacher at the OCC. The only problem was that Carma got bored easily and when she did, she would bark really loud for everyone's attention. She attended the AKC Star Puppy classes and later earned the AKC Canine Good Citizen Award.



Carma went to the office with Keith and I every day and rode the elevator to the 4th floor. She loved being able to interact with everyone that worked there or visited. We had human and canine visitors from all over the world and Carma was always eager to extend Southern hospitality to everyone. You can count on Carma to provide entertainment, and big wet kisses, whether you want them or not.



HBIC



Again, when Carma gets bored, she tries to get attention and coax someone to play with her. We had more than 1 complaint about barking from the CPA's below us during tax season so we started looking for another office so that Carma could be herself. We found a historic home on Oak St. and relocated our office there. We fenced in the back yard so that the Carma could stretch her legs during the day.



Alix and Carma on Go Red Day!

Chattanooga is an extremely friendly dog city and we took Carma with us everywhere that we went. We especially love the Southside where Wash, Play, Pint is located. State of confusion, Main Street Meats, Stir, Clumpy's Ice-Cream, Feed, The Hot Chocolatier, Market South, and Southside Pizza all welcome four legged friends. Carma is not afraid of anything, even big loud firetrucks. We took her for walks downtown around the aquarium and to the farmers market. Carma is well known at our favorite eateries and is a showstopper wherever she goes.



Dinner at Ruth's Chris



Carma at State of Confusion
She likes the Bison Burger,
Fries, & people watching



During the first summer with Carma, we took her lots of places. She embraced every experience and was the epitome of the phrase Carpe Diem. She still is and makes the most of every moment! Carma is the life of the party and engages with everyone.



Outside at home: Carma lives on Chickamauga Lake and loves watching the boats go by.

Carma & Garret



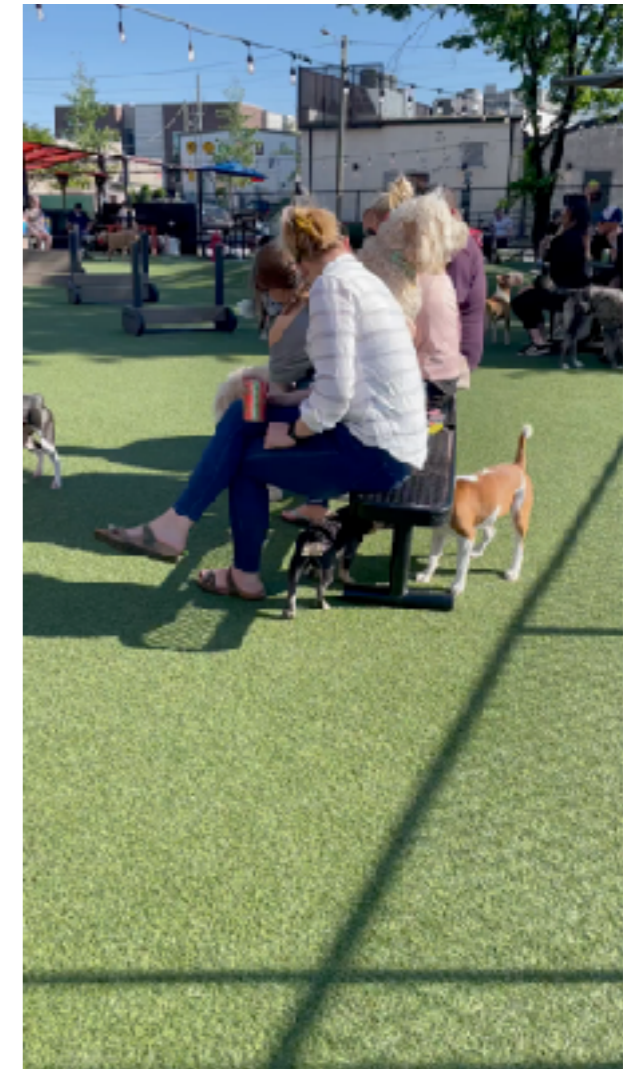
Father's Day Trip Franklin, NC



Dad and Carma on Father's Day. Carma has her dad wrapped around her finger and she knows just how to work him. She barks at him when she wants him to get her cheese or doggy ice-cream and waits on the couch until he returns with it. Carma liked playing with the other dogs so much that we decided to get Carma a sister. We reached out to Amanda Shea hoping for another awesome puppy but this time it was her friend, Berna Hart Welch, at Pebwin Kennels that had the puppies. So we started planning another trip!

Always finding new friends

Carma Thought the People Park was Awesome



When we took Carma to the dog park for the first time, all she wanted to do was go around and meet the people. She really did not care that much about interacting with other dogs in the beginning. Carma mostly prefers lap surfing at the dog park, but when she could convince a dog to chase her she was in heaven. Another funny thing about Carma at the dog park was that she would not drink after other dogs or pick up tennis balls that other dogs had put in their mouths. Once we learned that Carma was a germaphobe, we had to start bringing her own water and a bowl. Staffies don't tolerate heat well so owners must take care not to let them overheat.

Another Road Trip



Carma's Daddy Prime



This is going to sound ridiculous but.... We did not want to leave Carma behind, and we didn't want Carma to fly in the cargo compartment of an airplane. We decided to buy a small RV for our trip to visit her Carma's family up north and bring Baby Luna home. We had wanted one before for camping, but it was Carma that pushed us to make the move to get one. We named the RV Carma's Coach. Carma was so excited that she had to ride shotgun. It was a long trip but Carma did not mind at all!



Carma's mama, Topsy



Carma Meets Luna



Berna Hart Welch & Amanda Shea



This is Carma and Luna's first picture together after we picked Luna up in Ware, MA. Carma has been such a great big sister from the beginning. She was very gentle with Luna for the most part and loved having someone to play with. Carma is large and in charge. Luna is a

little timid and perfectly fine with Carma taking the lead. They love snuggling up in big comfy dog beds together, and will even chew the same bone without any conflict. They share the same food bowl and sleep in mom & dad's bed at night.

Girls on the Go!



Carma and Luna are always happy to go out and see what is happening in the world. Carma is in charge and watches over Luna. Luna is content to follow Carma and looks to her big sister for security.



The girls are all dressed up for Mom's Surprise 50th Birthday Party at the office. Carma is hoping that someone will drop some cake.



Carma and Luna are such good helpers. They are helping me pack up stuff for a move.



Carma spreading joy at the new office and improving employee morale. She knows which desk to visit if she wants a treat, which one to go to if she wants to go outside, or who will pick her up and give her a massage and let her walk on their desk.



Luna makes a good pillow



Halloween 2021

These pictures were taken at our office where we all spend lots of time. Both girls tolerate mom dressing them up in costumes pretty well. Luna however is much more patient than Carma. Carma wants me to hurry up and take the picture so she can move onto the next thing. Carma was charged with disorderly conduct and Luna is a convicted Sock Thief!

Christmas At The Office 2021



Carma's 1st Birthday Was An Event At Tier 1 Health And Wellness



Carma was showing her gratitude big time! She can be such an aggressive kisser!

We were all so excited to celebrate Carma's First Birthday! We had balloons, a cake, presents, and lots of fun. The best part of all is that Carma knew that the party was all about her!



Carma's favorite food is prosciutto and cheese so we had both at her first birthday bash. She was even kind enough to share with Luna.



Queen Carma waited patiently while little sister could hardly wait for what was coming!





Carma's 1st Glamping Trip

The first camping trip that we took in the RV was to Camp Tuck near Bryson City, North Carolina. The girls enjoyed cooling off in the river and snuggling up by the campfire at night.

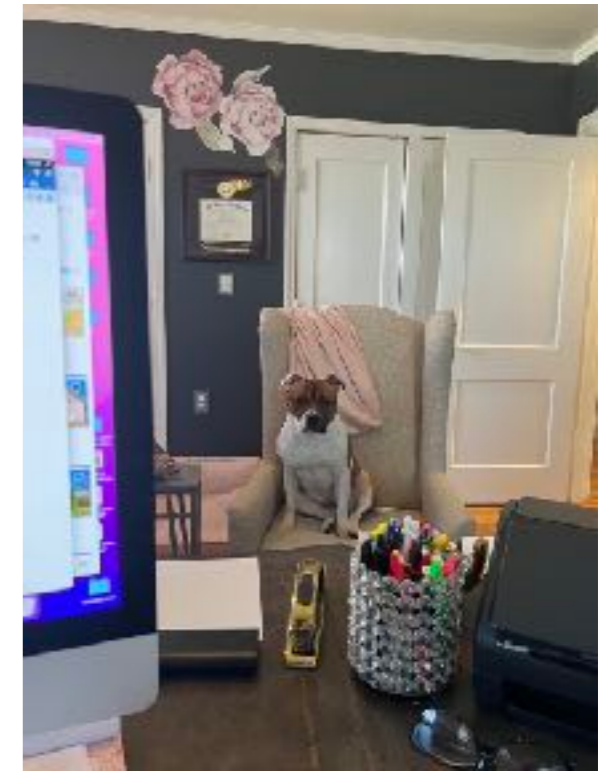




The Tier 1 Family 2022

Job Requirements: Must Love Dogs

Not a problem here



Hanging out in Mom's office



Hanging out in general



When the time came for Carma to begin showing, we reached out to the trusted breeders, Berna and Amanda, for recommendations for a handler to teach Carma how to be a show dog. Thankfully, the expert handler that they recommended, Ginny Kincer of Ethos Kennels, lives only 5 miles from us in Chattanooga. We met with Ginny and immediately knew that she is the only one that we would trust to travel with our precious girl. Carma and Ginny have proven to be a dynamic duo that stand out in the ring. Ginny has been showing dogs since she was 5 years old and instinctively knows what is needed to bring out the best in the dogs under her care.

Watching Carma and Ginny enjoying and excelling in the sport of conformation in dogs shows has been exciting and fun. Carma has proven herself to be much more than a pretty face. Carma has complete over 120 hours of training to become a certified service dog. Her service dog training is ongoing and will be Carma's full time job once her show career has ended. Carma's involvement in dog shows has given her the opportunity to have a multitude of various experiences and encounter a diverse group dogs as well as people. The more we expose dogs to different situations in positive ways, the more competent and comfortable they become.

Do you believe in good Carma?

Thank YOU JUDGES
 Mr. Peter Miller, Mrs. Polly D. Smith, Ms. Edwena (Teddy) McDowell and
 Ms. Deborah Thornton

MULTIPLE GROUP WINNER

Presented by Ginny Kincer
 Trained and Owned by
 Dr. John Kirk Nichols M.D., Angela Nichols RN R.T. Shea
 Brod by Berna Hart Welch & Amanda Ethos
 CarmaTheSBI.com
 Photo © Ethos Kennels

Fast CAT March 2022



We were so proud to watch Carma at her 1st Fast Cat in Chattanooga. She did not even look at the bunny. She was just running as fast as she could towards her dad!



Easter 2022



Even though we could not be more proud of how well Carma is doing on the show circuit, we all miss her very much! Luna especially misses Carma while she is gone!



One time when Carma came home from a show, she found these skeleton dogs and cats in the office and did not know what to think. It was so funny because Carma is always so confident but in this instance she was a big scaredy-cat! Play the videos above and I hope you are as amused as we were!

Dad and the girls watching the Georgia Bulldogs



Staffies are generally happy as long as their human is nearby. They are athletic and make great hiking partners but are also content lounging around.



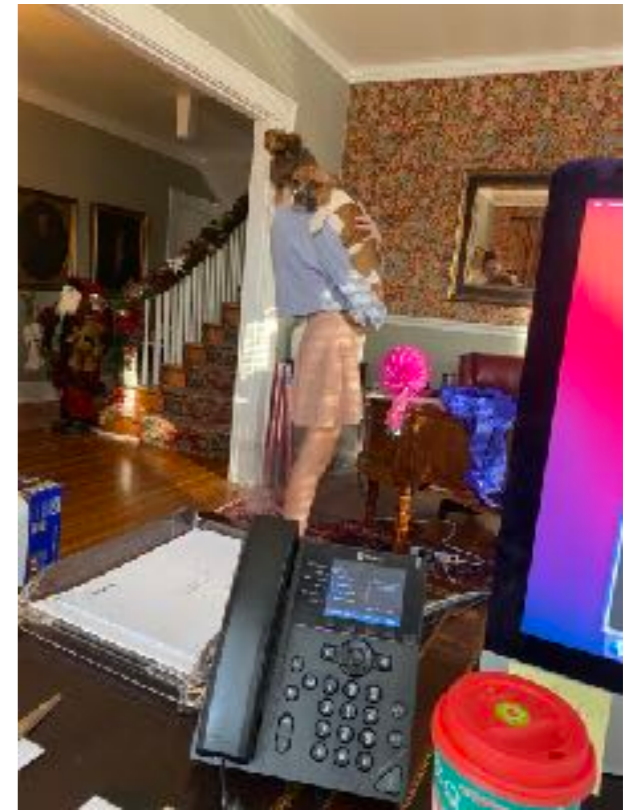
**GO
DAWGS!**



Trip to the Vet September 2022

She still wants in Daddy's lap!





Carma is loved by all and does not mind Staff Meetings or the frequent parties that go on at work!



Staffies Are An Integral Part Of The Staff At Tier 1



2023

Mom could not have been more thrilled at the opportunity to fly all the way to Portland Oregon with Carma, Cowboy, and Ginny for a big show and for service animal training hours. Both Carma and Cowboy were excellent traveling companions. I could not have been more proud of their conduct in the airport or on the plane. They navigated escalators, plane trains, rental cars and proved themselves to be well traveled canines.



Heart checks out great!
It has been confirmed,
Carma has a heart of gold!



Supergirl Pose



Girl Power

Carma won BOB and now we are waiting on the Group

These hard-working friends were taking a well-deserved break in the hotel



Nap Time

Carma and Mom took advantage of the opportunity to demonstrate a few of Carma's tricks between shows. As a result Carma walked away with an AKC Trick Title.



The Dynamic Duo Does It Again!

Carma & River, 2 Tricksters, with New Trick Titles



Dogs give so much love to those around them, and they deserve to enjoy healthy, happy lives filled with lots of love themselves. It is our responsibility as owners to properly care for our canine companions which includes teaching them good manners, how to behave as respectful family members and how to be good citizens. This is particularly important for powerful breeds and especially bully breeds because of the stigma that has been unfairly attached to them as vicious dogs that cannot be trusted. Bully breed is a generic umbrella term for terrier-type dogs including the American Staffordshire Terrier, the Pit Bull Terrier, the American Bulldog, Boston Terriers, Boxers, Bull Terriers, and Mastiffs just to name a few.

Many states and countries have passed breed specific legislation that bans bully and other powerful breeds. The laws are designed to reduce dog attacks on humans or other animals and promote public safety. However, these laws have been shown to compromise rather than enhance public safety. Breed specific legislation has been shown to be costly and ineffective in stopping vicious attacks or reducing the incidence of dog bites. They promote prejudice and canine discrimination which contributes to the high percentage of bully breeds in shelters and sadly a staggering number of bullies euthanized each year. The Centers for Disease Control strongly opposes breed specific laws and have noted that other factors beyond breed affect a dog's tendency towards aggression such as: heredity, socialization and training, reproductive status and early experiences.

Dog ownership should not be taken lightly and should be viewed as a lifetime commitment to love and care for a dog. Unfortunately, not all dog owners are responsible and fail to provide proper training and socialization that dogs so desperately need in order to gain confidence, develop trust, and to become good citizens.

Prospective pet parents should learn as much as they can about each dog's specific breed traits to ensure that they are capable of providing the dog with the activity, grooming, and lifestyle requirements needed to develop into a happy well balanced dog before bringing a dog into their home

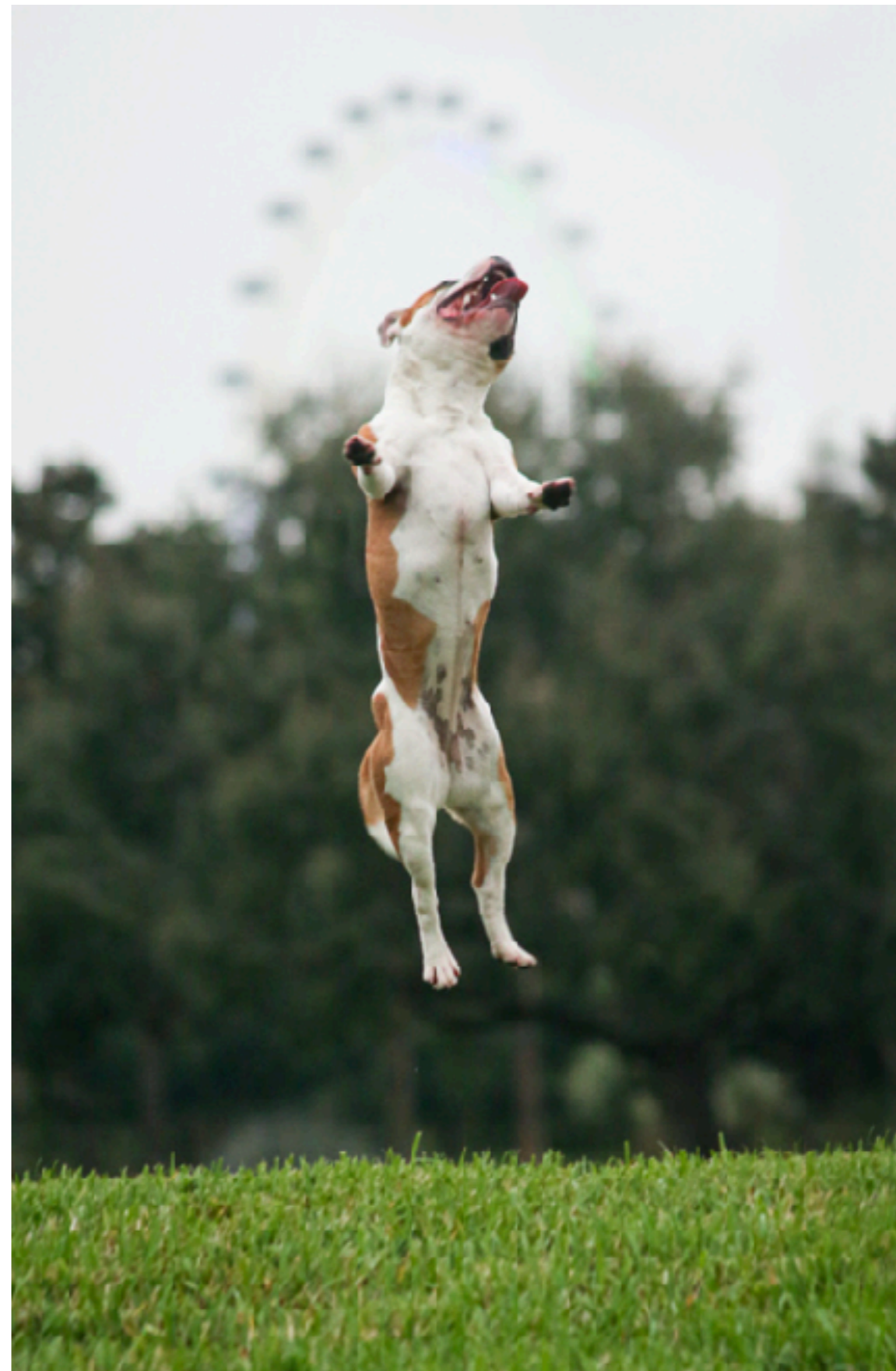


About

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier

A gallon worth of dog in a pint size container

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier or Staffy as they are affectionally known is one of only 3 dog breeds recognized by both the AKC and UKC. The only thing bigger than their smile is their heart. Staffies are smart, athletic, and love nothing more than being with those they love. Staffies learn quickly and respond best to positive reinforcement when training. They can be goofy and are very sensitive making them a loving and fun companion. Staffies require a good amount of attention and would not do well in a home where they are left outside or alone. They are short haired dogs with minimal grooming requirements.





It is extremely important to give dogs the opportunity to socialize with many different people and age groups when they are puppies. Adults and children behave very differently. If a dog has not had the opportunity to be around younger children that may be louder, impulsive, and display unpredictable behavior, the dog may become nervous or fearful. A fearful dog is more likely to bite or act aggressively

in order to protect itself or his owner. Exposure to people of different ages, genders and ethnicities as well as different environments will help to build confidence and trust in dogs and make life more pleasurable for the both the dog and the owner. Dog ownership is one of the greatest pleasures in life and also one of the greatest responsibilities which should never be taken lightly.