



Earlene Cook, right, holds her new dog Marian, a 3-year-old female Papillon rescued from a puppy mill in Florida after Kristy Chiodo, left, and her husband Sam Chiodo flew the dog from Florida to Albert J. Ellis Airport in Richlands.

Rescued pup finds forever home

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Jacksonville resident Earlene Cook was like many looking forward to greeting friends and family as they arrive at the airport. The only difference was that Cook was awaiting the arrival of a 3-year-old dog named Marian.

“It feels great, I’ve been having dreams about her for the past week,” Cook said as she embraced the shy dog at Jacksonville Flying Service.

Marian, a papillion, had been living in horrible conditions at a puppy mill until she was taken into care by the Papillion Care and Rescue Trust or PCART.

“She’s never really had a real home,” Cook said. “She’s gone from shelter to shelter and kennel to kennel until PCART got her and this will be her first real home.”

Marian was transported from Quincy, Fla., to Jacksonville by Sam and Kristy Chiodo, a husband and wife team of volunteers from the Pilots N Paws Pet Rescue service. The service is comprised of pilots and plane owners who are willing to assist with the transportation of rescued animals.

The Florida residents saw the online posting for a transport request to North Carolina and were pleased to help.

“This was actually our first pet transport,” Kristy said. “It means a lot to be able to do something for a dog that needs a family and be able to bring Marian to her forever home and her mama.”

Several months ago, Cook lost her 7-year-old papillion Sweetie and two others pets in a house fire. Cook discovered Marian on the PCART website three weeks later and immediately fell in love with her.

“It was her little eyes; she just looked so lonely like she really wanted a home and that’s what got my attention,” Cook said.

Donna Cannon, state coordinator for PCART, said that Marian was one of 17 papillions rescued from the puppy mill last September and one of two available for adoption.

“She was least likely to get adopted because she was least socialized,” Cannon said. “It was great for Earlene to step up and take that responsibility to do that for a dog that hasn’t had any socialization.”

After filling out an application, PCART connected with the Chiodos through Pilots and Paws and the process was complete within a few weeks.

“We found that Marian needed a transport from Florida to North Carolina. ... We then worked directly with the rescue to coordinate it,” Kristy said. “It’s all volunteers, it’s all charitable and it’s just people trying to save dogs from high kill shelters and either taking them to no kill shelters or to foster homes or forever homes.”

Sam and Kristy said their six-hour flight with Marian was a unique, yet exciting experience for each of them.

“When we met her she was real nervous but I just sat there and held her, sang to her and she calmed down — she did great,” Kristy said.

Cook said that she looked forward to giving Marian her own bed, plenty of space to run in her backyard and her 6-year-old grandson Gabriel to play with.

“Papillons are very adaptable and they adjust very well,” Cook said. “I give her a week and she will be fantastic.”

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