Pet Passions

New book by local author focuses on shelter dogs

HILTON HEAD ISLAND – "Titan's Tales and Other Dog Adoption Love Stories" is a book that pays tribute to shelter dogs, their caregivers and their new families. Hilton Head Island resident, Julie Chalpan, along with her husband, Keith, adopted Titan, a Jack Russell/beagle mix, more than 12 years ago from a shelter near Atlanta, Ga.

Titan is now 14.

Chaplan said it was high time to write down Titan's stories.

Chalpan talked with 38 people from all over the country to hear their stories of how they were rescued by their shelter dog. These 39 heartwarming stories, including Titan's, make up Titan's Tales. The book is available for purchase online at www.titanstales.com or at Shelter Cove HarbourFest through the summer months at Ruff Life's table, Red Rover, Pino Gelato, Burke's Pharmacy, Tail-Waggers, Palmetto Animal League, and Brooke's Bed and Biscuit. Eleven local dogs, including Titan, are included in the book.

"This is a real labor of love for me," Chalpan said. "As Titan gets older, it became more and more important for me to write down his stories, and I thought it would be great to share others' stories of how they were rescued by their dogs and the whole adoption experience."

It's become a family project, as her husband, Keith, designed the book, her mother, a retired school teacher, helped with the editing process, and most importantly their dog, Titan, is the lead chapter.

For the past year, Chalpan has volunteered with local shelters and dog-related groups in Beaufort County. Before that, she was a supporter of the Gwinnett Humane Society from where Titan was adopted.

A portion of each book sold will go to help local shelter groups.

Titan's Tales



the Julie Charplane

There will be a book signing from 4 to 5 p.m. July 11 at Pino Gelato and will benefit Maranatha Farm. A second book signing is planned for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 23 at Red Rover and will be in conjunction with a Hilton Head Humane Association adoption event.