



### History Makers

**"Although dogs don't tell stories, they have stories, and the stories help us understand."**

This is a favorite line from Susan McCarthy's beautiful article in the BARK Magazine (<http://www.thebark.com/content/view/full/1167>). She met the dogs who survived NFL player Michael Vick's dog fighting operation and wrote this piece shortly after the gag order was lifted. Susan reminds us how beneficial it is to tell - and retell - important stories. Storytelling shapes who we are as a culture, and more specifically, who we are as a culture of animal stewards.



No group of dogs has made an impact quite like 'the Vick dogs' have. All odds were against them, but the right combination of people came together from many different backgrounds to save them, and by doing so, they were able to tell the world who they were. Hardly the cold blooded monsters they were once made out to most of the dogs streamlined into normal homes and have become cherished family members. Even those individuals who had been too conditioned to fighting to find new homes have shown us their exquisite people-nature thanks to the work of Best Friends Animal Society. (<http://www.bestfriends.org/vickdogs/>)

We are so very proud to have been given the opportunity to participate in the evaluation, disposition, rescue a placement of these marvelous animals. As they changed the landscape for other dogs, they certainly helped change us into better human beings.

Listed below are a variety of news links, government documents, print articles and photo essays about the dog and now. We offer these in hopes that the dogs' stories will be retold again and again ... All the better to help shape a new understanding and reality for pit bulls and other beings plagued by abuse and misunderstanding.

*Above right: Former Vick dog Janny Justice helping kids to read. Credit: Laura Moss for the Unexpected Pit B. Calendar.*

#### New: Latest updates on the dogs

**Latest Updates** (<http://www.badrap.org/five-years-later/>) - Where the dogs are now, five years after arriving California

**Video** (<https://vimeo.com/52493759>) of dogs and adopters at the dogs' five year reunion

A lovely news piece from **ABC News** (<http://abcnews.go.com/blips/headlines/2012/11/five-years-rescued-vick-dogs-reunion/>) on the October 2012 reunion

