



Newport  
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Nicole Ludwig and Ellie Mae reunited. *Photo: Ed Barber*

## *Ellie Mae's Hero*

By **ED BARBER**  
Express Staff Editor

ORLEANS- A record setting career as a field hockey and ice hockey goalie for Nicole Ludwig didn't end making saves when she graduated from North Country Union High School. After graduating from UVM in 2011 with a BS in Animal Science her passion for animals lead Nicole to the Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Clinic in Orleans where she works with volunteers taking care of abandoned cats and dogs.

Adopting pets is a rigorous process to ensure the animal goes to a good home. Nicole may have made her greatest save ever through her dedicated effort to recover an abandoned coon hound in New Hampshire.

A few weeks ago Alex Peterson from Colebrook, NH adopted Ellie Mae under false pretenses. In the apartment where Ellie Mae lived, no dogs were allowed. Three days after Ellie Mae was adopted she was dropped off on a country road, rather than being returned to the shelter. Fortunately there were witnesses who watched as Ellie Mae was tossed from the truck and abandoned. According to witnesses Ellie Mae chased the truck in a futile effort to be with her adopted family.

With a lot of effort, concerned citizens were able to connect Ellie Mae to the Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Clinic and Nicole sprung into action.

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## Ellie Mae

*From page 1.*

On her own time and expense Nicole drove to the Great North Woods bringing Quincy, Ellie Mae's brother, to help find the abandoned dog.

According to Betsy Hampton, treasurer at the shelter, it took Nicole hours of tracking Ellie Mae who was disoriented and scared before she was retrieved. The coon hound would not approach anyone until Quincy and Nicole were able to corral her. The plucky young lady now has Ellie Mae back safely home in Orleans.

The problem is Ellie Mae and her brother Quincy are still looking for a loving home. They are young, energetic dogs who would like to be adopted as a pair. Wonderfully friendly and very active is a good description of these two coon hounds. Is there a family who would like to adopt these friendly dogs? Call 802-754-2228. Ellie Mae and Quincy have other friends at the shelter, both dogs and cats seeking a good home.

Renee Falconer who operates Pets of the Kingdom and is the animal control officer in Derby said prosecuting a person for abandoning an animal is difficult in that there are usually no witnesses. In this case there are witnesses and Peterson will be issued a summons by New Hampshire State Trooper Nick Post once he can be located. Abandoning an animal is not a jailable offense but you can be fined upwards of \$1200 in New Hampshire. To avoid a fine and bad publicity Peterson simply had to return Ellie Mae to the animal shelter in Orleans but chose not to do so.

There were other people involved in the search for Ellie Mae, including witness Peggy Moon, and West Stewardstown selectman James Gibney, and Trooper Post.