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MIAMI OUTLAW

Wed, Jan 25, 2012

[Bric a brac](#), [Personal Essays](#)

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BY [TERENCE CANTARELLA](#)



Bailey after Terence Cantarella took him in. (Photo courtesy of Terence Cantarella)

Terence Cantarella takes in a stray and battered dog—a pit bull. It's illegal to have a pit bull in Miami-Dade. The dog is also kind of crazy. Cantarella tries to find a way to get rid of the dog that sits well with his conscience. It doesn't quite work out.

The pit bull ban in Miami-Dade may be reversed. The Florida Legislature is discussing bills during their 2012 session that may veto any laws outlawing a specific breed of dog.

This is Terence Cantarella's second personal essay for *Under the Sun*. His first story was "Rosa's Corner" which he performed at our live [Lip Service show](#).

The songs in this piece are by "Waterfall" by Raffa & Rainer and "You Give me Problems about my Business" by Gainesville's *The Mercury Program*.

★ JOURNEY THROUGH MIAMI-DADE'S CANALS



WLRN contributor Terence Cantarella begins his journey through Miami-Dade's canal system by canoe on Monday, April 16.

Follow his journey on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), and tune in to WLRN 91.3 FM every morning and afternoon to hear about his travels.

Look for [daily blog posts and updates](#) and follow along on our [map](#), [Storify feed](#) and [photo gallery](#).



Map



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BEFORE: This is what Bailey looked like when Cantarella first met him. (Photo courtesy of Terence Cantarella.)



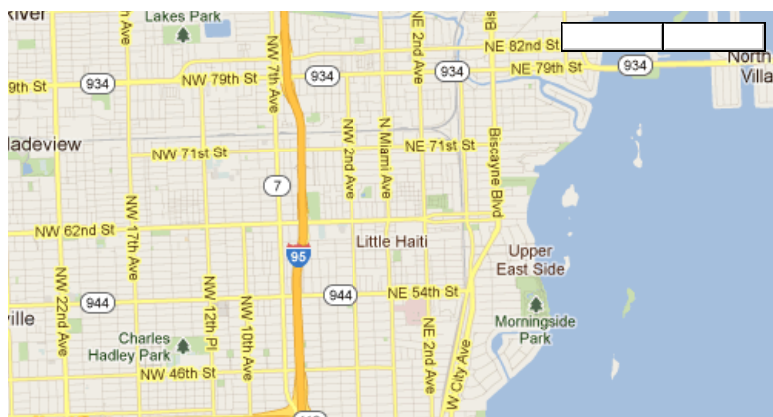
AFTER: This is what Bailey looked like after he'd lived with Terence Cantarella. (Photo courtesy of Terence Cantarella.)

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[Terence Cantarella reads the true story, "Rosa's Corner," at our Lip Service show.](#)

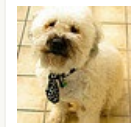
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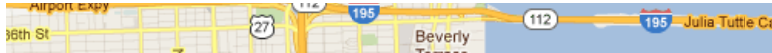


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11 RESPONSES TO “MIAMI OUTLAW”



Daniel says:

January 26, 2012 at 10:10 am

Excellent story. I wish it would have had a happy ending.

[Reply](#)



Sasha says:

January 26, 2012 at 10:29 am

This is one of the most heartbreaking stories I've ever heard. I was driving to work when I was listening to NPR (WLRN) and heard this story about Bailey the pit-bull dog. I cannot stop crying...:(

[Reply](#)



charley says:

January 26, 2012 at 7:33 pm

I listened to this heart breaking story on the way home from work in the car, then played the podcast to my twin daughters (11) when I got home. It's so sad, and they wanted to know what happened to Bailey, but we'll never know. 3 yrs ago, we rescued a crazy boston terrier named Dibbley, and some days I have regret. Never again though after hearing of Bailey's plight.

[Reply](#)



Anne in Key West says:

January 26, 2012 at 7:50 pm

Definitely a “driveway moment” story for me (ie was late to work, listening in the car). Successfully fought back the tears but can't shake Bailey from my head.

[Reply](#)



susy says:

January 27, 2012 at 6:40 am

We are fighting this ban...please join us to help

[Reply](#)



Ramón says:

January 27, 2012 at 12:21 pm

The way Bailey's story was told brought tears to my eyes, as well as to my SO (significant other)
Being an altruistic dog person I so much identify
with the strong bond you and Bailey shared.
THANK YOU.

[Reply](#)



Debbie says:

January 27, 2012 at 6:28 pm

I volunteered as a pet pal at the Broward Humane Society and I know they have a dont ask/dont tell policy but have some peace knowing that they have a wonderful clean facility with a very fast turnover in finding homes for pets. There are so many big hearted volunteers there I wouldnt be surprized if one of them took Bailey in. If that is not the case and he had to be put down just remember you gave Bailey the best 6 months of his life and if it had not been for you he never would have experienced love like that. 😊

[Reply](#)



Alexis says:

January 27, 2012 at 10:52 pm

It almost broke my heart to hear this story. I even cried a little. 3 years ago my family rescued a crazy dog named Dibbley who is great with humans but is mean to other dogs just like Baily. Sometimes its hard to own a dog that is crazy as this. But after hearing this story I will never regret it. I am wondering what happened to Baily after you dropped him off at the human society but we will never know. This was a very heart warming but very sad story.

[Reply](#)



Steve says:

January 28, 2012 at 11:07 am

What a powerful and heartbreaking story. It's almost impossible to listen to without shedding a tear. Thank you for sharing your story.

[Reply](#)



Wendi says:

January 28, 2012 at 2:00 pm

I'm not sure what kind of friend won't go down to a shelter and adopt a dog for you so that you can take it home. What a sad story.

[Reply](#)



Lisa says:

February 16, 2012 at 2:17 am

It's great to find an expert who can explain things so well.

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