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Envelope Teaser: The Toughest Mom on the Planet Needs Your Help ...

Dear John,

I have to warn you that Gabby's story might break your heart.

We were alerted about an abandoned dog with puppies who wasn't in very good shape, but nothing could have prepared for this dachshund and her 10 pint-sized puppies.

Gabby was emaciated beyond belief.

Every bone in her skeleton was visible beneath her skin. Some members of our staff burst into tears just to see this poor dog, protectively huddled with her little ones.

We'll never know how long Gabby had been living outdoors. Her adorable puppies were a couple of weeks old. Gabby is not exactly the kind of dog we think of as a great hunter, so how she found or caught any food, I can't imagine.

But even though Gabby was starving, her little puppies were in reasonably good shape. It was clear Gabby had been feeding them the best she possibly could – even though her motherly love was draining her of life day by day.

If she doesn't qualify as the toughest mom on the planet, I don't know who would.

Once we actually welcomed Gabby into our ABC Animal Shelter family, her story became even more extreme. I immediately thought about you and our other supporters in the hope that you would respond to help this poor little dog and her babies.

You see, Gabby's problems went even further than extreme starvation. She was suffering from one of the worst cases of deadly heartworm we've ever seen!

When animals like Gabby come to us with medical emergencies, we want to do everything we can to save them and restore them to health. That's why I'm writing to ask if you can possibly send a gift of \$xx, \$xx or even \$xx to ABC Animal Shelter to help pay for the care of Gabby and other cats and dogs like her.

As the person most responsible for the budgets of this place, I have to admit that even as my heart goes out to amazing animals like Gabby, I can't help but think about how expensive it is to restore a very sick dog or cat to health and then feed and house them through a long rehabilitation process.

But what else could we possibly do for an amazing animal like Gabby who has gotten such a

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raw deal?

How awful to be an abandoned dog or cat during *this* winter.

We've been dealing with dogs and cats in terrible shape since November. Some people are under the mistaken impression that dogs and cats can find their own food. But most can't. And even the ones that can are having a terrible time in this winter with extreme cold and lasting snow cover. It's so sad to see how hungry and cold they are.

But honestly, of all the animals we've cared for this winter, Gabby is the saddest – and at the same time, the most inspiring.

She never gave up on her puppies. She never gave up on life. And she never gave up on people. From the moment she realized we meant her and her puppies no harm, she has been wagging her tail.

That's why I hope you will welcome Gabby – and her babies – into your heart, and send a gift to help her and the other cats and dogs who need expert medical care and loving rehabilitation care.

Our mission of love is dependent on friends like you. Ultimately, it's your generosity that welcomes these animals into our arms and nurses them back to health.

Gabby is resting with her puppies now and we're slowly increasing her food intake. We'll also begin treatment for heartworm as soon as possible. I'm hopeful that in a couple of months, she and her puppies will all be living in loving homes, with days of safety, companionship and fun stretched before them.

Thank you for your love for these wonderful animals. We're so grateful for your help.

Sincerely,

Signer
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. Already this year, your support for ABC Animal Shelter has helped to find new homes for over 500 cats and dogs like Gabby. Some are easy and are only here with us a short time before they join a new family. Others like Gabby will need a lot of medical and rehabilitation care. Thank you for giving them that loving gift!