

Not Your Average Nine to Fivers

When you yearn to do more, you can

► **By Faith Maloney**

When it comes to helping the animals, lots of different career skills can come in handy.

Elizabeth Doyle Fowler, for example, wears two writing hats. As Elizabeth Doyle, she is the well-known author of steamy romance fiction like *My Lady Pirate* and *Precious Passion*. As Elizabeth Fowler, she uses her gift to find homes for unwanted animals through the No-Kill Handbill, an on-line daily newsletter for Austin Pets Alive, a volunteer group in Austin, Texas.

"The first animal plea I wrote was three years ago, for an animal at my local shelter," Elizabeth told me. "I visited the shelter, found a three-legged pit bull named Stubbs, who'd been sitting in his cage for weeks, wrote up a little piece about him, and put it in the newsletter.

"The phone calls came pouring in, not only from Texas, but from all over the country. A Canadian woman wanted to adopt him and have him flown to her. He was suddenly the most popular dog at the shelter! The employees had to fight off prospective applicants and explain that he could only go to one home!"

After her success with Stubbs, Elizabeth wrote an animal bio everyday for two years. About 80 percent of the dogs and cats she wrote about went on to find homes.

Pleading Their Case

Gali Hagel was at the top of her profession as a corporate lawyer with a multinational telecommunications company in Atlanta, Georgia. She's traveled the world, working on international mergers and acquisitions. But during a 1993 photography safari vacation in Africa, Gali began to rethink her personal goals in life. She saw how the animals were vanishing right before her eyes and came back from that trip determined to do something to help the animals and the land.

"I joined the Animal Legal Defense Fund and started getting referral cases from them," said Gali. "And over the next few years, I began disengaging from my corporate work until I was doing more and more for the animals. I helped draft Georgia's first animal felony cruelty law. I've worked on landlord/tenant disputes, veterinary malpractice cases, and some other matters where service people, like meter readers, caused injury to animals during their work. There are a lot of cases out there, big and small, in which the animals need an advocate."

Right now, Gali is working with other lawyers and primatologists to draft a treaty to stop the extinction of the great apes in their range states. "I don't regret my decision to leave the corporate world. The money's not as good, but my heart is full."

An Artist for the Animals

Jenny Campbell took a leap of faith, too. She was a successful

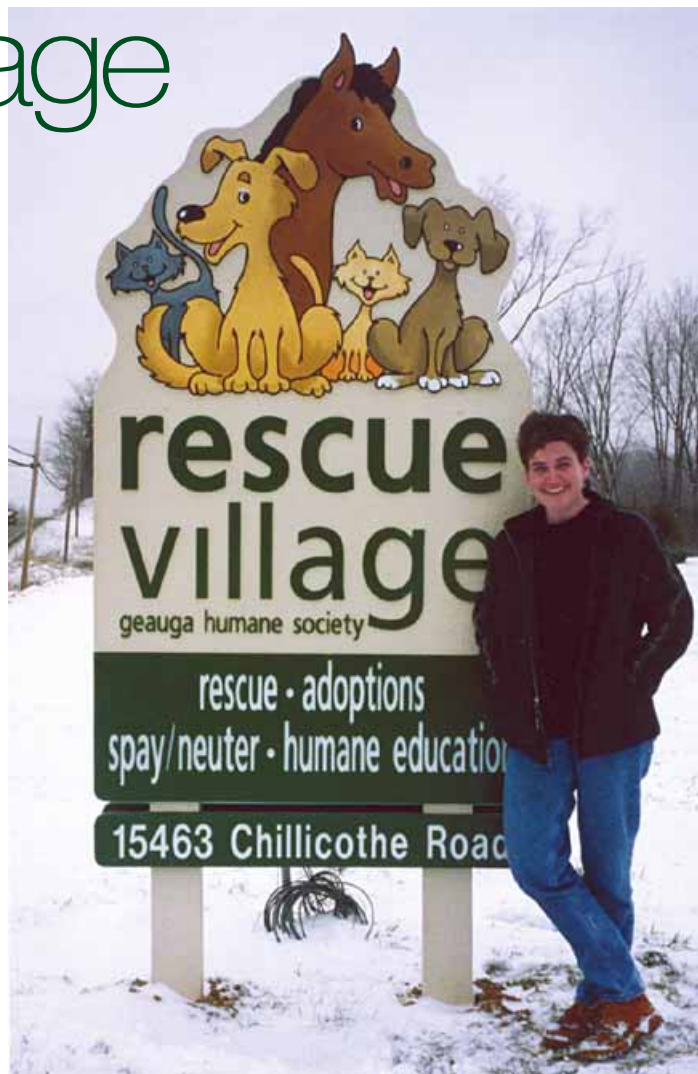


Photo: Timy Sullivan

journalist with some major city dailies when she decided to try a new career as a cartoonist.

"It was very slow the first year," said Jenny, "but gradually my work began receiving public recognition, and I was soon in demand as a magazine and children's book illustrator.

"I was doing well and wanted to give something back as a volunteer. I chose the Geauga Humane Society as it was close by my home. I started as a dog walker.

"The shelter was small and needed all the help it could get. I wrote down on my volunteer application that I was a professional cartoonist. No one got back in contact with me about that, so I just carried on with the dog walking. Then I happened to meet the new director of the Geauga Humane Society."

Jenny started doing cartoon illustrations for the group's literature and the signs for their new shelter, Rescue Village. "My drawings are everywhere now, from the big sign in front of the building to the T-shirts and hats we sell at events."

There are so many ways to help the animals. Are you a builder, a plumber, a pilot, a TV celebrity, a fundraiser, a teacher, an accountant, a graphic designer, a realtor? You can apply whatever skill you have to helping the animals and the people that run animal groups and organizations. Check it out. 🐾