

Pet CPR & First Aid Class Taught by Cheryl Brady of Vet Care Express Saves a Precious Puppy's Life!

For Yorkie breeder Suzanne Quick of Yorkies by Suzie Q in Bradenton, an ordinary afternoon this past June unexpectedly turned into a matter of life and death. One of Suzanne's puppies suddenly was knocked to the floor by the Afghan hound that she recently had adopted from Satchel's Last Resort Sanctuary, and the five-month-old Yorkie simply stopped breathing.

"It was almost as if the Afghan 'head-butted' the puppy," Suzanne recalls. "Fortunately, I was standing right behind them. I quickly picked the puppy up; his little body already was very stiff. I put my ear to his chest, and I could not hear a heartbeat."

As she recounts the story, it is evident that Suzanne has developed a close bond with the puppy she affectionately calls "Gus," who was named after one of the adorable, animated mice in the classic Disney movie, "Cinderella."

Looking back, Suzanne remembers feeling a wave of panic at the moment she realized that little Gus was not breathing. Fortunately, common sense and skill prevailed as she began using the life-saving techniques she had recently learned at a Pet CPR and First Aid class taught by Cheryl Brady of Vet Care Express.

"I had taken a similar class several years ago at Animals by Nature, but decided to take a refresher course," Suzanne says. "I have treated wounds before, but I have never needed to perform CPR, so this was a new—and terrifying—experience for me."

Despite the panic that enveloped her, Suzanne began alternating gentle chest compressions with mouth breathing.

For what seemed like hours but was actually only a matter of minutes, Suzanne continued CPR, only stopping to see if Gus's tiny heart had started beating.

"All I could remember was Cheryl telling the class to keep performing CPR until the patient was back to normal," Suzanne says. "I finally could hear a heartbeat, but it seemed very slow, so I kept giving Gus CPR until, finally, he sat up in my lap, lifted his head up and looked around."

"After Gus came to, I just sat and held him for the longest time," Suzanne continues. "I was amazed I had saved him; I thought for sure that he was gone."

"I can't help but wonder whether Gus still would be here if I had not signed up for Cheryl's class," she adds. "Taking the refresher course definitely gave me the confidence I needed to perform CPR."

Cheryl, of course, was thrilled when Suzanne told her how she had used CPR to save Gus's life.

"That's the crux of what taking the course is all about," Cheryl says. "It gives people peace of mind, knowing that they can handle an emergency, as well as the confidence they need to take

the necessary steps to save an animal's life."

Certified by the American Red Cross, Cheryl has been

At left, the adorable Yorkie, now known as "Bear," sits happily on his Doggie "Place" Mat by Ramona Loves Dogs. Suzanne's quick thinking and CPR skills saved the puppy's life.



Suzanne Quick of Yorkies by Suzie Q and Cheryl Brady of Vet Care Express cuddle with "Gus" and celebrate a life saved after Suzanne recently revived the Yorkie using CPR skills Cheryl taught at a Pet CPR and First Aid class held at Sniglet's Dog Bakery in Sarasota. Photos by C. Botha

teaching CPR and First Aid classes throughout the community for the past year and a half. In addition to the monthly classes held Sunday afternoons at Sniglet's Dog Bakery, located at 2827 University Parkway in Sarasota, Cheryl has taught the three-hour course at Red Cross centers in the community and at veterinary practices and training and boarding facilities in both Sarasota and Manatee counties. Cheryl also offers small group sessions in private homes, upon request.

"With only 8 to 10 students in each class, there is plenty of one-on-one interaction and individualized attention," Cheryl says. "Students that complete the course also receive a certificate from the American Red Cross."

A "For the Love of Animals 2010" honoree and winner of the "Best New Pet Business" in the Sarasota Pet's Choice Awards in 2011, Cheryl is the founder and owner of Vet Care Express, an emergency animal ambulance transport service in Sarasota and Manatee counties. Cheryl also provides transport for veterinary visits, trips to doggy day care facilities and grooming salons and other non-emergent appointments.

For information about upcoming Pet CPR and First Aid classes or to schedule a group class, contact Cheryl by calling 941-592-5131, or send an e-mail to cherylbrady@vetcareexpress.com.

For details about the Sunday afternoon classes held at Sniglet's Dog Bakery, contact shop owner Jennifer Rebokus-Scott by calling 941-358-7644 or by sending an e-mail to jennifer@sniglets-dogbakery.com.

And what about Gus? Thankfully, he is alive and well, living with his new family, who now calls him "Bear." And while Suzanne misses her little companion, she has a new litter of Yorkie puppies on the way!

To find out more about Suzanne's Yorkies, please call 941-758-0958, or send an e-mail to suzieq@tampabay.rr.com.