

### Gumby the dog



- 1 On March 5, Kay Hyman, the Director of the Charleston Animal Society (CAS) posted a photo of notorious escape artist Gumby on her Facebook page. The 7-year-old dog is pictured lying contentedly on a feathery pillow. His angelic white face has become famous to the staff and their social media followers – and for good reason. Gumby’s most recent arrival back at CAS was his ELEVENTH return to the shelter!
- 2 Gumby has been adopted out 7 times, voluntarily given back to the Animal Society 8 times, and picked up as a stray 3 times. The dedicated staff tried everything imaginable to place Gumby in a forever home – from working with rescue groups to pairing him up with a female hound as a package deal to training sessions with the shelter’s behavior team. But each time he was adopted, somehow he found his way back to the shelter. Finally, they realized Gumby was trying to tell them something. As far as he is concerned, the CAS was home.
- 3 After so many failed attempts, the folks at CAS were done placing Gumby for adoption. They realized that he seldom tried to escape while in their care and adored the staff members who doted on him as well. They noticed something else about Gumby’s behaviour at the shelter. He seemed to have a natural ability to read the emotions of other dogs. New arrivals dealing with fear and anxiety seemed comforted by the hound. Gumby knows just how to adjust his own behaviour in a way that settles fearful dogs and soothes reactive dogs. So now Gumby is earning his keep by assisting the staff and the behavior team. He is their beloved go-to dog for behavioral demonstrations and for acclimating new pups – a true “Ambassa-Dog”!

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