

Local author publishes book of rescue dog tales

Hilton Head Island resident Julie Chalpan – along with her husband, Keith – adopted Titan, a Jack Russell-beagle mix, more than 12 years ago from a shelter near Atlanta, Ga. Titan is now 14 and Julie thought it was high time to tell his stories.

The result of her efforts is "Titan's Tales and Other Dog Adoption Love Stories," a book paying tribute to shelter dogs, their caregivers and their new families.

Chalpan talked with 38 people from all over the country to hear their stories of how they were rescued by their shelter dogs. The 39 heartwarming stories, including those of Titan and 10 other local dogs, make up "Titan's Tales."

"This is a real labor of love for me," Chalpan said. "As Titan gets older, it became more and more important for me to write down his stories, and I thought it would be great to share others' stories of how they were rescued by their dogs and the whole adoption experience."



Author Julie Chalpan and her rescue companion, Titan

It became a family project, with her husband designing the book; her mother, a retired school teacher, helping with the editing process; and most importantly

their dog, Titan, is the lead chapter.

Chalpan has been volunteering with local shelters and dog-related groups in Beaufort County for more than a year. Before that, she was a supporter of the Gwinnett Humane Society, from which they adopted Titan.

Titan was rescued by this no-kill shelter on his "kill day" from an animal control facility in north Atlanta. The Chalpan's are still in touch with the volunteer who rescued him that day and she wrote the foreword for the book.

"We are so grateful for Titan's rescuer and thankful for all of the people who work tirelessly to save these wonderful

dogs," said Chalpan. "The unconditional love and pure joy a dog can bring to you and your family is not to be missed, and I am blessed to have Titan in my life."

When Chalpan isn't writing books about dogs or playing with them, she runs her national public relations firm, Focus Unlimited PR.

The book is available for purchase online at www.titanstales.com or in Bluffton at Booksalicious in the Promenade, Palmetto League Adoption Center in Riverwalk Business Park and Brooke's Bed and Biscuit at Westbury Park. Hilton Head locations include Shelter Cove HarbourFest through the summer months at Ruff Life's table, Red Rover dog groomers, Pino Gelato in the Village at Wexford, Burke's Pharmacy on Main Street and Tail-Waggers in Coligny Plaza.

A portion of proceeds from each book sold will go to help local shelter groups.