

## Heartworm Hero: Annie Blumenfeld

### From One Heart to All

Sometimes, one voice can deliver a message better than a whole choir. That's the case with Heartworm Hero Annie Blumenfeld. This determined 15-year-old has made heartworm prevention her mission, devoting her creative energy toward heartworm education and care for shelter dogs.



It all started with Teddy. Annie's family adopted this charmer from Shaggy Dog Rescue in Houston and brought him home to Connecticut. When Annie learned that Teddy had recently had to undergo heartworm treatment – a regimen that included injections and being kept in a crate for several weeks, she was determined to help other dogs avoid having to undergo the same difficult treatment. And because he bravely endured the shots and forced inactivity, Annie believes Teddy is a Heartworm Hero in his own right.

### Wags 4 Hope

Annie created a nonprofit organization called Wags 4 Hope. She works to increase heartworm disease awareness and education through speaking engagements, special events and social media. Annie also started a Wags 4 Hope club at her school, Fairfield Warde High School, to get more people involved in the effort.

### Art With a Heart

To help pay for other shelter pets' medical expenses until they find their forever homes, Annie has combined her passion for animals with her love of painting. She creates bright, playful dog paintings and donates the sale proceeds to the Houston Shaggy Dog Rescue and local Connecticut shelters.

If you'd like to help the cause, you may contact Annie at [wags4hope@gmail.com](mailto:wags4hope@gmail.com) to inquire about a custom painting of your favorite dog.



### All Fifty States

Because heartworm disease has been found in all fifty states, Annie knew her message needed to go nationwide. After thorough research of dog-friendly programs and many months of correspondence, she reached a major milestone – sending flyers to universities and corporations in every single state.

### An Ambassador for the Cause

The Pet Animal Welfare Society in Norwalk, Connecticut, named Annie PAWS Youth Ambassador for all her heartworm prevention efforts and her donation of 50 paintings for their 50th anniversary celebration. The American Heartworm Society also salutes this young woman and her trusty dog for helping everyone Think 12 and protect their pets all 12 months of the year.