

Lost dog rescued from sewer, reunited with family

By KORIE WILKINS • FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER • July 25, 2008

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Sheila Stuhrberg had given up hope of finding her beloved dog Summer, missing three weeks, when a neighbor said he'd heard a dog whining and barking in a nearby sewer.

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And on Wednesday, Summer came home after Oakland County Sheriff's Office Dep. Brian Burwell rescued the 5-year-old Akita.

"I think she missed us as much as we missed her," said Stuhrberg, 52, of Lyon Township.

Capt. Doug Molinar of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office said deputies were called to the sewer grate on Lobolly Drive in the township at about 6:20 p.m. on Wednesday.

When they arrived, they found the dog about 25 feet below the street in the sewer, hungry, scared and dehydrated. A 20-year-old man who lived nearby had tried to save Summer but could not. Burwell went down the sewer and pulled the dog out.

Molinar said he has no idea how long the dog had been in the sewer or how she got in there.

Stuhrberg said Summer, a former show dog, is recovering.

"We're really happy she's home," she said. "She means the world to us."

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