Tornado “Tori”

Tornado “Tori” was found in Berry, Alabama 12 days after the Tuscaloosa tornado in 2011. She was in a fire pit, unidentifiable, horribly matted, and full of mud and debris. Her rescuers weren’t sure she would even live. After a good haircut, IVs, and other medical care at Canant Animal Hospital, she started to improve. Medically, she was a mess: roundworms, extremely thin, missing part of her jaw, dry eye syndrome, unable to use her back legs due to some paralysis, heartworm, luxating patellas, a bullet in her shoulder, a fear of wind. But she was a resilient little dog. Two months after her rescue, Tori made a trip from Tuscaloosa to Duluth. She began to walk again. Southern roots run deep: she is a loyal Crimson Tide fan, Roll Tide! We became Pet Partners in 2012, and therapy dog work brings her to over 200 school classrooms, nursing homes, and programs each year. I tell children that people get upset over the smallest things, crab about something not being exactly right, or nitpick every issue. Tori is happy every day she wakes up. She doesn’t wallow in self-pity about her past, overlooks human mistakes and shortcomings, and joyfully embraces what the day brings, even if it’s only to sit in the sun and reflect. Lessons in those little eyes, deep soul, and forgiving heart.