Dogs are family too.

Greg Wittenburg
Dedicated to Brisco, Stella and Buster Brown, for teaching me how to love.
My name is George.
I am 9 years old.
My family has my Mom and my Dad and Me.

Sometimes, I get sad because I don't have anyone to play with.
I walk home alone after school. One day I stopped in front of a building with bright colors and big windows. Through the windows, I could see a bunch of dogs running and playing....Inside. I have never had a dog. My mom says "dogs belong outside."
I went inside to see what this place was.
This nice man told me it was a place where dogs could come and play, so they wouldn't be lonely.
I told him I was lonely, so I understood.
He asked me if I wanted to meet a few of the dogs?
I said SURE.
Shane brought a brown dog out named Brisco and his tail wagged and wagged. He was very cute. Shane told me that a big dog and bitten Brisco but his mom took him to the vet and he was all better. It made me think about the time I broke my arm and my mom took me to the Dr.
The next dog I met was Buster Brown. He couldn't walk very well, Shane says "he's got a disability but is the best dog ever."
He gets to come every day to play with all of the other dogs. Buster had a funny ear that flopped over. He was a Great Dane.
Then Shane brought out Stella Ruffington, he said she owned the place. Her name was on the door. She was the biggest dog I had ever seen. She was beautiful. Shane told me today was her birthday and asked if I would like to stay for her party? I said "for sure."
Shane says Stella is an old girl, turning 12 today. I told him 12 isn't old, I am 9. He says in dog years - that pretty old. The party was lots of fun, everyone got to wear birthday hats, even me. Shane says Stella loves to wear hats. That made me laugh.
This is Max and Mitzi. They come to run and play at the shop too. We all had a great time. They got to eat cake from the floor. My mom would never let me do that!
After the party I asked Shane why he would throw a birthday party for a dog? He told me that Stella, Buster Brown, and Brisco were all family. He says that's what family does. Dogs are not supposed to be left outside alone all day. They get sad just like us. Like me.
When my mom and dad got home I told them about my adventures and my new friends. About Stella's birthday party. About Buster Browns floppy ear. And Brisco too. I told them that they were all a family, just like us. Mom and dad could see I wasn't sad anymore.
Mom and dad woke me up early the next day. They said we have a surprise. I jumped out of bed and ran out to see what it was. It was a puppy. My mom said she had been wrong, puppies can be family and should be inside with us.