



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH  
CITY OF KETCHIKAN



**Joint Media Release: Third Avenue Landslide Update 16 Dog Rescue**

Date: September 1, 2024, 12:45 p.m.  
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**For Immediate Release**

After an emotional week of recovering from the aftermath of the Third Avenue landslide, Ketchikan – and most specifically, James and William (Bill) Montiver – got some very good news today.

During the landslide the Montiver home was pushed 47 feet downhill into the neighbor's home. James was able to make it out of the home on his own, and emergency responders rescued Bill, but the dogs (Alani and Cassie) were nowhere to be found at the time. Responders made additional attempts throughout the week to look for Alani and Cassie, but did not hear or see signs of them.

Early this morning during his assessment of the slide area, AkDoT&PF geologist Travis Watkins heard whimpering from the collapsed house at 225 Whitecliff Ave. Emergency responders were sent to the scene. The Ketchikan Fire Department crew assessed the house for stability, and made a plan for entry.

Jason Kynsi, Firefighter/EMT, was the first to enter, making a path for Crystal Schleiff, Firefighter/EMT, to continue toward the dogs as the openings became smaller. The path was precarious, and the process was long, due to the collapse of structure. Crystal gained access to the location where the dogs were located, and was able to retrieve the first dog and passed her off to Tyler Pendergrass, Firefighter/EMT. The second dog was retrieved by Chuck Dodd, South Tongass Service Area Firefighter/EMT.

"I was elated when I saw the dog's eye's shining back at me!" – Crystal Schleiff, Firefighter/EMT

Bill and James, transported Cassie and Alani to Island to Island Veterinary Clinic, where Dr. Jolene Pflaum was waiting for their arrival

*"We are humbled and blessed that Cassie and Alani have been returned to us, and our family is together again. We are so thankful to the first responders and to everyone who has helped us this week." – James Montiver*

A full story will be released later this evening. Attached photos, credit to City of Ketchikan staff.

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