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MecklenburgTimes photo by Carolyn Steeves

HIGH FIVE: Charlotte the Legal Beagle, the mascot for the Charlotte School of Law, exchanges her trademark high five with Assistant Dean of Admissions Beth McCarthy.

'Legal Beagle' brightens halls at Charlotte School of Law

By **CAROLYN STEEVES**
THE MECKLENBURG TIMES

CHARLOTTE — They say it's a dog-eat-dog world. For the students at Charlotte School of Law, the dog is a bit nicer.

Charlotte the Legal Beagle, the school's mascot, spends her days in the administration building on campus.

She is about two years old. The school got her from a breeder in Salisbury in August 2006 when their first students began working on their law degrees.

Charlotte goes home most nights with Beth McCarthy, the assistant dean of admissions at CharlotteLaw.

However, McCarthy added, "Sometimes she goes with some of the students and some of the faculty and staff take her home."

Charlotte sometimes shares the building with Mark, a young "legal beagle in-training" that Victoria Taylor Carter, associate dean for admissions and financial aid, brings in. Mark is rambunctious and outgoing, a perfect complement to the shy, sweet Charlotte.

"He and Charlotte have become quite the playmates," McCarthy said. People in the office commented that Mark was like an annoying little brother to Charlotte, always wanting to romp and play.

McCarthy said the students love

Charlotte and often come in to visit. "Especially during mid-terms and finals, they will come in here and lay on the floor and de-stress with her."

"I think it's good to have a dog around the office. It has a nice, calming effect on everyone," she said.

She has also become a bit of an attraction. McCarthy talked about how sometimes visitors and prospective students will want to see her first. Only after the visitors see her, can they talk about admissions, she joked.

And Charlotte likes to make it worth the visitor's while. "No matter how shy she is," McCarthy said, "she always gives everyone a 'high five.'" ■