

Issue 1.3, Spring 2009

RESCUE ALLIANCE

OF HAIRLESS AND OTHER BREEDS, INC.

Quarterly Newsletter



Max- My first foster

Max, My First Foster by: Faith Z

Max originally arrived at our home as a foster with his friend Ruby. We soon realized that he and Ruby had some serious health and behavior issues.

Instead of trying to find them an adoptive home we decided that we would adopt Max and Ruby and make them a part of our family.

It took nearly a year for Ruby and Max to become pee pad trained or to really let us hold them or to see them play like "regular" dogs.

We didn't know much about Max and Ruby's upbringing other than that they were living out in a barn through all kinds of weather and that they were very likely abused and neglected.

Max came into our lives as a stubborn little guy afraid to trust. Over his time here he opened up to me and I know that he finally understood how to love and trust humans.

Max was a very special little dog. We were blessed with almost four years with our little Max. Sadly, we had to say goodbye to Max recently. He was a fighter until his last day and his spirit has taught me so much about life and about forgiveness. Max changed my life and I miss him dearly.

I know that Max is looking down on all of us who help animals and he is sending special love and blessings.

Thank you to all those who help animals find love and happiness.

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Murphy's Story

By: Jeanette Warren

I rescued Murphy from an animal control facility in North Georgia. Murphy was so terrified when he arrived at animal control that the shelter manager, who is rescue friendly and tries to save as many dogs as possible, asked a friend to foster him until a rescue group could be found. I received an e-mail about Murphy asking if I could possibly take him. I had never seen Murphy and knew very little about him, but I knew he deserved a chance to find a safe and loving home. What a tragedy it would have been if this great dog had been euthanized. A wonderful person volunteered to transport Murphy from North Georgia to Kennesaw, GA and kept him in her home until we could meet after I got off work. I was under the impression that he was a small dog, so the crate I brought was too small for him. Poor Murphy was so frightened that we had a hard time prying him out of her car and getting him into my car. When we finally made the transition, he immediately curled up in a ball in the floorboard on the driver's side and we had another struggle to get him in the back seat. Thank heavens it was only a 10 minute drive to my home, but he shook and cowered the entire time. I kept Murphy in the master bathroom along a crate covered with a blanket (his "den"), but left the door open so venture out and walk around. I pretty much left him alone for a couple of days except to feed him, give him fresh water, throw treats to him and take him out to potty, and when I approached him I backed up to him and never looked directly at him. He would tremble and get as low to the ground as possible - the poor baby would not do anything to draw attention to himself. I eventually gained his trust, gave him a bath and introduced him to the other dogs, which went extremely well. Murphy quickly bonded with me and he is an absolute love bug and quite the comic. Murphy was malnourished, filthy, matted, had fleas and smelled awful, but is now healthy, his coat is soft and shiny and he has put on some much needed weight. Sweet Murphy is learning to trust and is turning into the happy, playful and confident dog that he is meant to be. He loves the other dogs, playing with toys, stealing socks, soft beds and guarding the back yard against squirrels trying to invade his territory. Because Murphy was not socialized and was abused, he is very fearful of new people and situations, so Murphy and I started attending training classes last week and he's doing well. I know this story will have a happy ending because Murphy is going to be a wonderful friend and companion to some lucky person or family.



Murphy

Do you love animals?

How you can help

Foster or Volunteer

We are always looking for qualified foster homes and volunteers for many other areas in which we need assistance, so please contact us to find out more about our volunteer opportunities!

Donate

Rescue Alliance of Hairless & Other Breeds, Inc. functions purely on the generosity of those who want to help find homes for as many animals as possible. All rescued animals undergo a complete veterinary examination. They are either spayed or neutered, provided dental care, given all vaccinations, groomed, and are placed on a flea and heart worm preventative, if necessary. All of this usually exceeds the

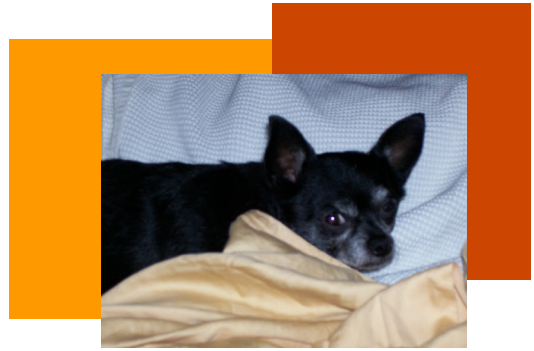
Where to Send your Donation

By Mail:

Rescue Alliance of Hairless & Other Breeds, Inc.
C/o Debby Sweet, President
5425 Jack Creek Rd.
Templeton, CA 93465

On The Web:

www.RescueAlliance.org



Sponsor an Animal

This Spring

Make a foster pet a happy pet!

All of our foster homes need supplies to take care of their animals waiting for adoption. Food, paper towels, cat litter, cleaners, blankets, towels and other supplies can really add up.

Why not purchase a gift card from a national chain such as PetSmart, Pet Supplies Plus, Home Depot or even gas cards and send it along to Rescue Alliance.

Thank you so much for anything you can give to help our animals.

Visit www.rescuealliance.org

Handicapped Dogs

By: Debby Sweet

A couple of years ago our rescue took in it's first handicapped dog, Miss Muffet, a Chinese Crested dog. Muffet was completely paralyzed from about mid back down. She was incontinent & leaked, yet needed her bladder expressed to fully empty it & avoid infections. She had pressure sores from sitting in one place all the time. Some said we were crazy to take her on... we were just sad that someone dumped her in a shelter.

We got Miss Muffet a cart & the difference in her was astounding. For the first time in who knows how long, she could run like a regular dog... wheels instead of back legs doing the running to keep up with her perfectly fine back legs. We discovered that human baby diapers work great on a dog if you cut a hole for the tail. Because of her paralysis, she would scoot diapers right off dragging her hind end, but we bought her some infant outfits that snap between babys legs. We had to crochet the necks to make them a bit smaller, dogs don't have the shoulders that human babies have, but suddenly the diapers could not easily be rubbed off & now the floor was safe from pee drips & the diaper helped to keep her more comfortable too.

Soon after Muffet, we got Comet, a poodle/maltese mix. She had been hit by a car & her owner could not deal with her. Like Muffet, Comet could not control her bladder, so we bought more baby outfits & more diapers. Now Muffet had a friend to pal around with!

After that, we took in Cristy, an 11 year old Pekenese... Cristy has no movement in her back ankles... thus she tried to walk on the tops of her feet instead of the pads. Christy also leaked... more baby outfits & still more diapers! We made her a cart out of PVC pipe & wheels for about \$20.00 and an evening of figuring it out. As soon as Cristy had her wheels, she was one happy camper!

Lastly (for now) came BooBoo, a 1 year old chihuahua. Boo had been attacked by a big dog & her back was broken. She figured out how to walk on just her front legs, but again, she leaks and also she drags her feet so she must be kept indoors. She is little, so we bought newborn baby outfits for her & yep, still more diapers!!

Muffet has now been with us for almost two years. She has regained the use of her right hind leg, and partial use of her left hind leg. All her pressure sores are gone. She can walk enough to get around the house, but she still needs those diapers! She uses her cart for occasional outside walks.

Comet is also still with us... going on a year now, but she is one happy doggy! She is loving and sweet & can walk some, but prefers to scoot along the floor. She uses Muffet's cart when she gets outside time. Christy has been adopted & is LOVING life as a very spoiled & much loved companion. Boo is also still with us, but she loves hanging out with the other special girls & is waiting for that special someone to come along.

Handicapped dogs are special, and having 3 in diapers is a challenge, but the rewards are great. Our girls are fantastic cuddle bugs, can't jump onto the furnature, only need a 10 inch high baby gate & (while wearing their diapers) never have accidents on the floor!

If you are home alot, or can take a dog with you to work, please consider giving a special dog a special home. We would be delighted to answer any questions you have, share our baby outfit neck adjustment and/or our PVC cart design.



A Beautiful Little Girl Who Finally Gained Her Freedom

By: Janet Weitzel-Janca

On a sunny day in November 2008, I drove to Toledo to pick up a group of puppy mill dogs who were surrendered by their breeder. I had been working on getting these dogs for over a month, working with several other fellow rescuers to get these dogs into safe and loving foster homes. The breeder was continually balking, finally agreeing to surrender over 12 dogs.

I arrived at the home of another rescuer who had picked up all the dogs the night before and had them staged in her basement. I walked down the stairs and saw all of them, several Havanese and several Chinese Cresteds. Most of these dogs were older, in poor health, but obviously very salvageable. These dogs had been "through the mill" so to speak and I was so excited to get them loaded in my van and to their new foster homes. These dogs needed medical attention ASAP. Some had hair loss, others were dirty, matted to the skin, many with eye infections and were in lousy shape. One beautiful older little hairless Crested had a previous broken leg that went untreated and mammary tumors.....one was even diagnosed a day later with a severe uterine infection. She had her surgery just in time and came through it. Without it she would have died.

Another dog was a white Chinese Crested Powderpuff named Pearl. When the breeder first emailed the list of dogs she was releasing, I noticed Pearl's name on the list and that she was a Puff and older. Having been in rescue for some years now, I have had experience in trying to place Puffs in homes. Most folks want hairless Cresteds and Puffs are often overlooked. Even though they are small, quiet, non-shedding and very small, most people aren't familiar with the breed and how many different varieties there are. I was concerned for Pearl as whoever took her into their rescue would probably have her for a long time, if not forever. Her father Buzz was also released, who shared her challenges of being a Puff and even older than Pearl. Luckily, I found wonderful foster homes for both.

Before I had picked up the dogs, I had called my longtime friend and asked her if she would consider fostering one of these dogs. She isn't a full time rescuer, but has experience with mill dogs and understands and sympathizes with their plight. Rhonda told me, "I'll take one. I don't care which one you give me, just give me one who needs me most." I immediately thought of Pearl as I knew Rhonda would take care of her if she needed long term foster care.

After loading the dogs into my van, packing each crate in carefully, I drove to the meeting place for all the rescuers to pick up their new foster dogs. The whole thing went off without a hitch. Rhonda and her husband Bob approached my van and said, "I'm so excited to see Pearl! Where is she?" I took her out of her crate, handed her to Rhonda and she immediately cuddled into Rhonda's arms. We both were shocked to see her condition.....toothless, thin, dirty, matted and noticed all the open sores all over the outside of her mouth. Her eyes also appeared to have an infection. We both were weepy, ANGRY that a "show breeder" would let her dogs get into this condition but also very happy we got them out from irresponsible breeder.

Rhonda took Pearl to the vet a day later. She did indeed have an eye infection and the vet suggested that he would be able to get a better look in her mouth if she was lightly sedated. He did not want to spay her right away, if at all, due to her condition and age.

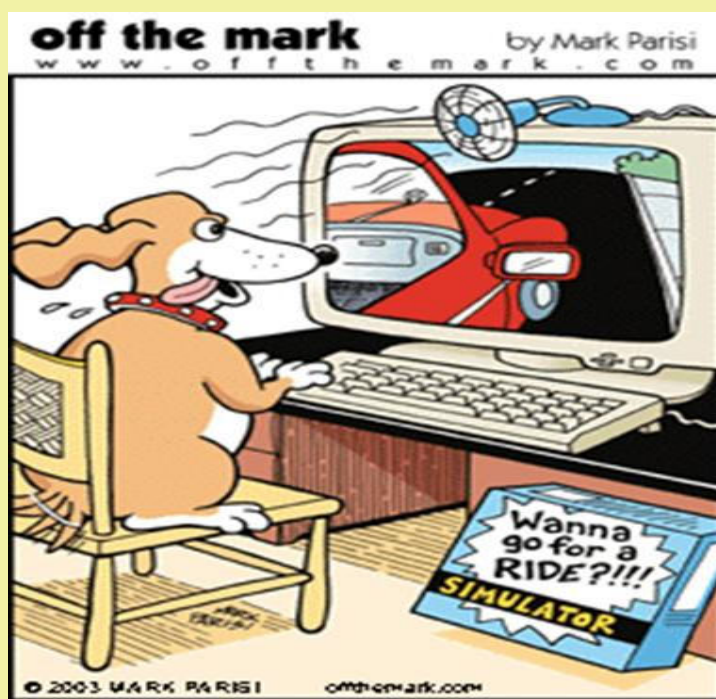
I got a call a day or so later. Rhonda said the vet thought she had mouth cancer. He couldn't really do any surgery on it since he had thought it was advanced but wanted us to see an oncologist. We made an appointment and took her to a very well respected canine oncologist where he determined that there wasn't any surgery to help her. If only she had been properly vetted a couple of months before by her previous owner, she could have had life saving surgery back then. The vet suggested that Rhonda take her home and spoil her for her remaining time here on earth.

Pearl passed away last weekend. She went gently in Rhonda's arms finally knowing love, kindness and is now free of pain. Free of a cage, free to eat, play and run as she wishes. Pearl brought a lot of joy to Rhonda and her husband Bob. She showed so much love in return and her little spirit will live on in all of our hearts forever. I know I'll never forget her.



Pearl a
beautiful girl

A Little Rescue Humor



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