



PLACING PAWS

"in the hearts of their Forever Homes"

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" . . . I saved one animal and it didn't change the world, but surely the world changed for that one animal . . ."

Placing Paws was started with little more than a passion for helping animals and a desire to make a difference. In the spring of 2008, four of us took a leap of faith. We hoped for the best and started our animal rescue. We named ourselves Placing Paws because that's what we do. We place paws into the hearts of their forever homes. We started as strangers, became friends, and now we're like a family. Our rescue family has grown over the years, and we could not be more proud of this community. 10 years later we have so many more friends, animal lovers, and advocates by our side.

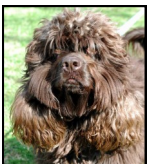
10 years ago, one of our first projects was to help evacuate a kill shelter in Central Indiana - it was closing permanently. Over the course of a few months, we mobilized our network to get each and every pet in that shelter relocated or adopted out. Over 500 animals - and Placing Paws was born! What sometimes sounds simple - placing paws in hearts - has been challenging, and yet so rewarding. Today, we have the same mission and passion as we did back then. We don't just rescue dogs and cats, we treat the whole animal . . . all of the emotional and physical maladies the world has dealt them. We fix broken bones and teach dogs how to walk again, after being hit by a car. We raise litters of kittens and puppies from their first breath - to their forever home. Through the help of our volunteers, and our dedicated partners, we have saved over 2000 animals, to date. As we celebrate 10 years, we are so grateful for the support of this community ~ as are the countless pets we have helped!

2008 ~ Otto's story began in the Central Indiana kill shelter.

Otto was guessed to be a 10 year old Labrador mix that was taken from his owners, on neglect charges. He was chained in their yard, emaciated and bald, due to flea allergies and an untreated thyroid condition. The shelter manager felt there was something special about Otto and an urgent plea was made to save him. Placing Paws of Illinois agreed to take Otto into our care and nursed him back to health. After seeing Otto's picture, Otto's eventual adopter knew she wanted him to join their family. It was a match made in heaven!



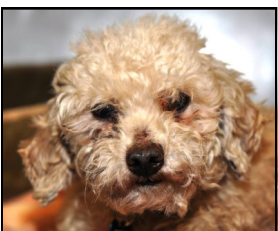
2009 ~ The Year of Mousse.



On transport day from Lake County Indiana, a petrified, unsocialized, chocolate cocker spaniel arrived. Life had been very unkind to Mousse - he was terrified of everyone and everything, he wasn't a huge fan of dogs, either. Mousse's transformation took time and a LOT of patience. Fast forward 28 months in foster care, we got the perfect application for Mousse. We took the introduction process slowly. Five weeks later - on December 3, 2011 - Mousse was adopted into the most wonderful and perfect family. He was finally home.



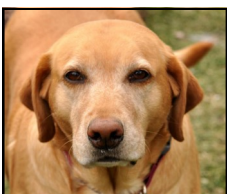
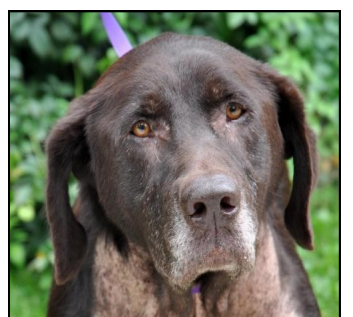
2010 ~ The Year of the Puppy Mill Rescue.



On January 31, 2010, we received 11 dogs from two different Missouri puppy mills. We rescued six discarded breeding dogs and five Great Dane puppies. When puppy mills are done with their breeding dogs, they either euthanize them or sell them at auction. These particular dogs were all sold at auction, and sent to rescue from there. All of the dogs were adopted into wonderful forever families, giving them unconditional love. They enjoyed the comforts of soft warm beds, good food, sunshine and walks in the grass. This is the exact reason rescues say "adopt don't shop" - when puppies are purchased from pet stores, these are the animals that get left behind. These six were lucky enough to be sold at auction to a group that wanted them for the right reason. They all lived happily ever after, and it's an experience none of us will ever forget.

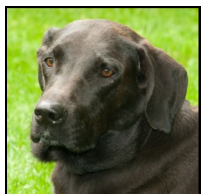
2011 ~ Ruby's Circle of Life

Early summer - 2011 - we began working with Montgomery County Animal Control, in rural Illinois. They had a very pregnant black lab named Ebony. Ebony was picked up as a stray, and her owners refused to pay her reclaim fee. As a result, Ebony was set to be euthanized, simply because she was pregnant. We agreed to take her in, and became friends with her rescuers. As we learned more about where these dogs had come from, we knew we had to help. They all lived outside, ran loose, had little food / water, and zero shelter. We began intake on these dogs, sometimes only a few at a time, but certainly as quickly as the rescuers could convince the owners to give them up. Once all of the dogs were rescued - and we thought we were done - the rescuers made a final sweep of the property. Much to their surprise, WAAAAAY in the back of the yard, was a sweet chocolate lab chained to a dog house. We later pieced together that she was the original dog . . . mama to Ebony and grandma to Ebony's pups. She was in horrific condition: half bald with a massive growth on her chest. We named her Ruby, and she was the kind of dog that makes people love labs. She loved everyone, all dogs, and loved to chase a tennis ball. We discovered that Ruby had heartworm disease, skin infections, ear infections, and that mass on her chest was unfortunately cancer. It was removed through two surgeries and we thought she was in the clear. Unfortunately a few months later, the cancer came back. We did chemo, but eventually it got the best of her. When she told us it was time, we all decided to help her cross the Rainbow Bridge in comfort (and with hamburgers). Her foster family officially adopted her so she had a real family before we let her go. We will never forget Ruby and her circle of life.



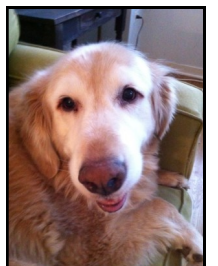
2012 ~ The Year of the Mama

2012 brought us a whole lot of mamas! The year started off with Dora (6), Sierra (11), Buttercup (6), Zoey (9), Misty (13) and finally, Izzy cat (4). That was 49 babies in total! All of the babies and their mamas found incredible homes. Each litter brought its own unique experience to Placing Paws. This was a very special year of new life and new beginnings.



2013 ~ We celebrated our 1000th adoption!

2013 brought us a senior golden, named Austin. He was surrendered to Placing Paws, in late March of 2013. His owner had him since he was a puppy, but didn't feel he had time for him any longer, nor could he give him the attention he deserved. He reached out to Placing Paws for help, and help is exactly what he got! Austin was immediately taken in by a fantastic foster mom. Great news came several weeks later, when his foster mom's brother and sister-in-law decided to make Austin part of their very special family, in Virginia. Some journeys for rescued dogs are longer than others. For Austin, he waited almost 10 years, and traveled 1600 miles, to find his forever home. On May 5, 2013, Austin and one of our amazing volunteers, set out on his journey to his new home. The car trip was 11 hours one-way, but worth every minute.





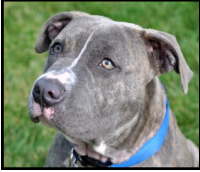
2014 ~ The Year of Hope

Placing Paws was contacted by a local vet who was caring for a very sick pregnant dog. It was determined that mama was not healthy enough to carry her pups full-term, nor would she be able to nurse them after birth. On September 25, 2014, Hope and Samson were born 10 days premature, via c-section. They weighed just five and seven ounces when they were born. Sadly, Samson lost his battle after just 10 days, but our little Hope was a fighter! For four weeks, she was tube fed around the clock, until she was old enough to drink formula from a bowl and eat soft food. By eight weeks, she was eating crunchy puppy kibble and weighed five pounds! This little puppy was full of spunk and curiosity! Hope was healthy, happy and strong! Hope had an amazing spirit, and a whole lot of love to give, and on December 8, 2014 Miracle Puppy Hope found her forever family.



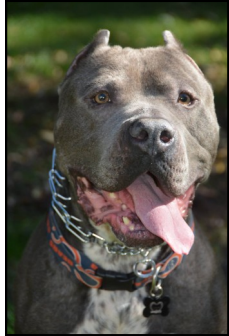
2015 ~ Angus!

Angus was surrendered at a vet appointment where he was supposed to get only a rabies vaccine. When Dr. Luaces walked in to the exam room, he saw a pitiful, pink, hairless, scabby, yeasty, smelly mess. He explained to the owner, that the dog had severe mange, secondary skin infections and was not healthy enough for any vaccines. After discussing treatment and the cost involved, he discussed the option of getting him into rescue. Angus went into an incredible foster home, where he received the proper medicine, and special baths he needed to get healthy. Who would have thought that there was a beautiful blue brindle under there?! We're thankful that he crossed paths with Dr. Luaces, and we could help him get better and find a wonderful home.



2016 ~ The Story of Mimi

Placing Paws agreed to take in Mimi when Care Animal Hospital Libertyville called us with her story. She had been surrendered when her owner couldn't provide the care she needed. Mimi had a pyometra (an infection in the uterus) and she had become septic. She needed emergency surgery, a blood transfusion, and two days in the ER to save her life. Mimi's journey started about seven years prior, in a Missouri Puppy Mill. She was a breeding dog - her job was to make puppies to be sold for huge profits. As we mentioned, Mimi is the kind of dog that gets left behind when puppies are purchased from pet stores. Over the years, she had way too many litters, way too many c-sections, and was no longer of use to the puppy mill. After surgery, Mimi went to an incredible foster home, the week of Thanksgiving. She remained there for seven months. She had countless trips to the vet for check ups, blood tests, dental cleaning and follow ups. They took excellent care of her until we found her most perfect home. This little Missouri puppy mill dog is now a beloved inside pet, who is a spoiled, pampered princess.



2017 ~ The Year of George Clooney

August 2017 brought us this handsome, silver fox. He was brought into Winnebago County Animal Services, having been found tied up and abandoned. He was named after George Clooney, for obvious reasons. He weighed a frightening 56 pounds (a healthy weight for him would be 80 pounds). He had pressure sores from laying on concrete, skin issues and kennel cough that took three rounds of antibiotics to clear up. The shelter kennel staff fought hard to spare his life. **Placing Paws was the 81st rescue asked to help.** Clooney went to an incredible foster home, who eventually adopted him. Although osteosarcoma took Clooney too soon, we learned some priceless lessons from him. *Live in the moment, as you never know what tomorrow may bring ~ Greet everyone with a smile ~ No matter what Clooney had been through in the past he was happy and held no grudges. He loved hard, and greeted everyone with tail wags ~ Be grateful. Clooney loved his toys, his monthly BarkBox (which he could open himself) and loved attention ~ Take pleasure in the small things. He loved his trips to Lowe's, visits from mom and dad's friends, kids and car rides.*

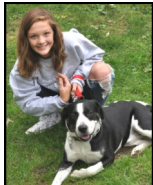
2018 ~ The Year of #miraclemiley

Miley was our first rescue of 2018. While most of us were celebrating on New Years Eve, Miley was fighting for her life, in a ditch by the side of the road. Alone, cold, in tremendous pain and terrified, this little girl had been hit by a car in rural Missouri, on or around Saturday, December 30th. Miley spent at least three days laying severely injured in a ditch, enduring frigid temperatures, and at the mercy of predators. We were contacted by Leslie, in SE Missouri, with a plea for help and pictures of her X-rays – we knew we had to help! Fixing broken bones quickly is imperative before they start healing on their own. With time not on her side, Leslie was able to secure a transport, the very next day. With volunteer drivers (thank you Marlene and Deb), from Sikeston, MO to Libertyville, IL. She arrived on the 3rd of January and needed surgery as soon as possible to repair her fractured hip and two broken femurs. Her first surgery was on January 5th and on January 17th she WALKED out of the vet's office, on her own, to go to her foster home. Over several months, she had multiple surgeries to repair both legs, spay her and then take out the hardware, after her legs healed. She recovered faster than anyone could have imagined! Dr. Luaces, at Care Animal Hospital Libertyville, surgically repaired all of her injuries. Everyone at Care was INCREDIBLE, and tended to her every need. She received physical therapy at TOPS, in Grayslake, and her foster mom took excellent care of her at home. When she was all healed, her foster mom adopted her.



Thank you to everyone that has been on our journey every step of the way. Thank you to our foster families, our volunteers, and of course, to our adopters. None of this would be possible without you. We also owe heaps of thanks to our partners: Thank you to Dr. Luaces, his staff, and all the vets and technicians at Care Animal Hospital Libertyville. Thank you to K9 Playtime for all of the dogs fostered, trained and exercised. Many thanks to everyone for being a part of this family.

This year we commemorated our 10th Birthday with a party! What a great celebration and reunion of alumni! We also launched our newly redesigned website!



**We ask for your continued support, so that we can save even more animals in 2019!
You may also donate at www.PlacingPawsRescue.org**

Every dollar helps us continue our work; no amount is too small!

***Happy Holidays from your Placing Paws Family!
Christie, Cindy, Becky and Erin***

***Please "Like"
Placing Paws Rescue
on Facebook.***



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