



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 . . ."

Looking back on 2019 three things stand out. This was the year of the Pit Bull, the year of the mama dog and the year of the local owner surrenders. We often are asked what exactly it is we do. What is the difference between a rescue and a shelter? We received this email from one of our rescue partners in August 2019. This is rescue.

"Rescue friends,

I have been posting "Black Eyed Susan" pregnant dog, one of the sweetest, no issue dogs we have ever had for weeks and weeks. Now, she is close to birthing puppies. I was so in hopes, yesterday, on Tuesday transport, she could have been taken in by one of our loyal faithful rescue groups who help us on weekly basis. If anyone can please squeeze her in, please let me know TONIGHT. There could be transport available for her tomorrow. My animal control I have facilitated, sponsored and kept at it with for 15 years, I have never seen a summer like this. I



have never ever experienced an expectant Mom Dog who was overlooked and not taken in, in this crisis emergency. I DO understand ALL OF YOUR positions, full over capacity sad reality, believe me I do. But please, this little momma dog needs OUT and if she births at the pound, I cannot set up transport very easily for newborns. This momma is a PETITE dog, if not pregnant, probably a 40 pound dog. God love the pit bulls so innocent. Tomorrow, decisions have to be made, we are FULL even with FOUR DOGS who left yesterday to rescues and I praise and thank them. We have puppies I have posted, an old precious Coonhound, and very pregnant Momma. Please, can someone take her? After 15 years, I need help ASAP for this precious dog and her soon to be pups.

Upon reading this, we started reaching out to our network, and someone said "yes"! The rescue community came together to organize transport from SE Missouri to her foster family in the Chicago suburbs. She was named *Mamma Mia* and had 8 beautiful, healthy puppies on Labor Day. Mamma Mia and her puppies makeup a handful of the 108 dogs and cats we have adopted out in 2019 (almost **2000** dogs and cats since 2008)!



29 of those 108 were pit bull or bully mixes. That's a whopping 27% of our total adoptions! Our 2019 Pit Bull rescues came from lots of different places, some from Chicago Animal Care and Control, some from rural SE Missouri, some from Southern Illinois and some right in our own backyard. Here are some of our favorite stories.

Zeus, Sissy, and a lot more pitties



Zeus and Sissy were outside dogs on a property in SE Missouri. They were usually chained up in the yard, and sometimes they were allowed inside with their owner. During hot Missouri summers they had motor oil applied to their ears to keep the flies away. The pair were loved, but they never received veterinary care - and they definitely weren't spayed or neutered. They made litter after litter of puppies, born outside and given away once they were old enough. But two puppies never found homes. Willie is all black, and Hayes has serious special needs. That ended up working out for those two. Willie and Hayes were rescued in February of 2019 and joined the Placing Paws family. Their owner loved his dogs and wanted to keep mama and daddy. But after the neighbor poisoned the dogs in the summer of 2019 he wanted them sent to rescue so it wouldn't happen again. Today, all four dogs enjoy the comfort and care of loving forever homes.



The "Six-Pack" puppies

Goose, Guinness, Stella, Floyd, Barley and Hops were abandoned at about 4 weeks of age in a field in SE Missouri without their mama, left to fend for themselves. It's a miracle they were found in time to be saved. The puppies arrived to us via a private pilot flight and immediately received desperately needed medical care. Our foster families helped us improve their nutrition and rid them of all kinds of parasites. While his littermates were ready for adoption, Barley was obviously not getting better like the other puppies. We did further examination of him, and as it turns out Barley had leptospirosis and required 5 days in the emergency room to save his life! He is now healthy and happy, and waiting for his forever home.



More Mama Dogs

2019 brought us 3 mama dogs (Kinsey and 6 puppies, Pimm and 3 puppies, Mamma Mia and 8 puppies), all of which were fostered by the same family. This single family saved 20 dogs this calendar year, all because they said yes. When we asked their foster mom about her experience this is what she said:

"The whole rescue network never ceases to amaze me. It's not just the rescue coordinator or the foster parent but the people that reach out or the people that tell their neighbors that they know someone who fosters and it goes on and on and spreads the news and love and possibilities for so many of these animals caught out in rural areas that need help."



Emergency Needs



Bailey, a chocolate Lab, and **Zula**, a pit bull, could not look more different on the outside. But inside they both have equally incredible personalities. Both were surrendered to us by their owners who could no longer afford the care they needed. They had horrible skin allergies and infections. They needed LOTS of medical care, special baths, prescription food, time and plain ol' TLC. Both girls could not be more grateful for their second chance and both ended up in the most perfect homes for them.



Our most recent rescues come to us from Rockford, IL. Two starving labs thought to be about 5 and 10 years old. **Zeus** and **Bear** arrived to us weighing just 40.4 and 44 pounds respectively. They were barely surviving on very little food, enough to feed one small dog. Their ribs and hip bones protrude - Zeus has so much muscle loss that the top of his head looks angular and pointy. These sweet boys arrived in the transport van where they quietly rode in their crates. They popped out, happy, wiggly, wagging their tails, ready for their next



adventure. The ability of animals to forgive and move on is unmatched, and helps us keep going and to keep saying yes when rescue gets hard. These dogs have never seen a vet, ever. That was until they arrived into the care and comfort of Placing Paws. All because someone said yes.

We get thousands of requests like this all year long begging for help. We can only say "yes" because of our generous donors, our amazing foster families and the whole rest of the network of volunteers that make rescue work.

We ask for your continued support, so that we can save even more animals in 2020!

You may 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

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on Facebook.***



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