



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..."

When we started Placing Paws 15 years ago, we began with nothing but a passion for animals and a desire to make a difference. Turns out, that's really all you need. The rest fell into place with hard work and dedication to fulfilling our mission.

As the story goes, Placing Paws was first founded in springtime - The season symbolizing starting fresh (or starting over). It didn't take long for us to find our mission. Around here, "our way" is to always put the animal first. From rescue day to adoption, we work tirelessly to place our pets in loving foster homes, tackle their (sometimes complex) medical needs, and get them ready for a happy life in a furever home. Our way always puts the best interest of our four-legged (and sometimes three!) friends first.

Rescue, we've always said, is a team sport.

There are so many hands in the relay race that bring our rescued pets to us and then onto their forever homes.

The start - Our rescues often come to us from downstate Illinois, and sometimes they come from as far away as Texas. It starts with a local rescuer - a good samaritan or first responder. When we hear about an animal we can help, we start networking on our end to find a foster home. In the meantime, the local rescuer handles getting the animal to the vet and arranging transport to us. We usually have so much communication with the local rescuers before the pets get to us, we feel like we already know them before they get here.

The hand off - Transport is typically a network of dozens of drivers that offer their free time, vehicle and gas to drive pets from point A to point B. We coordinate with the foster family, gather all the supplies needed and arrange to meet the transport upon arrival. They are then bathed, photographed and handed off to the foster family. Once the pet is handed off to the foster family, their journey with us is just beginning. In foster, they get socialized, learn to trust and learn unconditional love while they wait for their forever home. There are countless numbers of people that are involved in each one of our rescues, we are grateful for them all!

The finish line - Our rescue family has grown each year and we couldn't be more proud of this community we have built. After 15 years we have saved over 2700 animals, made lifelong friends and met some of the most incredible people on the planet. Looking back, we've learned a lot, we've shed a lot of tears and we've celebrated success thousands of times.

Thanks for joining us on this journey and here's to 15 more!

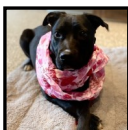
FOSTERING

The most common question our foster parents get asked is "How can you let them go?"... meaning our foster dogs. Well, it's very simple, how can we NOT let them go? We as foster parents are their bridge to a better life. If you haven't read the poem by Diane Morgan on our website's Foster page, you should. We learn very quickly that we cannot deny our foster dogs the amazing people, families and homes that are meant for them; it would be selfish if we did. We learn that our foster dogs can have a wonderful life without us... the life they deserve and are meant to live. Not every dog is for everyone, we're not all a perfect match even though we love them all. Of course, letting them go can be hard, but that's OK because we SAVED them and now another family can love them too. As a foster parent, they come into our lives for a short time, they learn to trust, love and be loved, then we let them go to be with their forever family so we foster the next one that needs us. **Each foster takes a little piece of our heart, but the next one makes it whole again.** Fostering a dog, puppy, cat or kitten is an amazing experience and it truly saves their life. Plus you meet amazing people along the way. If you are interested in fostering for Placing Paws, please submit a Foster Application on our website. As a foster based rescue we cannot save them without foster homes.

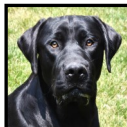
These are just a few of the animals that we have been able to save in 2023 because a foster said "Yes".



We are COMMITTED

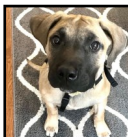


We have an amazing team of loving fosters that bridge the gap to a better life for most and then sometimes we need a little extra help!! - Whether it's physical or emotional, when it comes to animals in our care we GOT THEIR BACKS!! Doggieology 101 has helped us by generously donating their time and training skills to take in multiple dogs for us over the years. With proper exposure and direction, dogs who are almost unadoptable are given yet another chance at a future. So THANK YOU!! This year Nala, Laverne, Shirley & Cooper were able to learn the good life thru their training program. Nala is still available for adoption!!



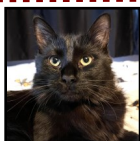
Then there are the cases where their medical needs go beyond the routine spay and neuter and dental cleanings. We are always so grateful that because of our supporters, we are able to provide extensive medical care when needed.

Here are some of our favorite success stories of the year !!



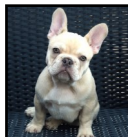
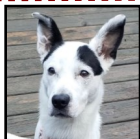
Valkyrie - At 14 weeks old this girl arrived paralyzed in her hind end and then came down with the deadly parvo virus 3 days later. It took a week of fighting for her life to survive parvo, then months of rehab to gain function of her back legs. Today she is a 90 pound beauty that is living an amazing full life. She runs and plays and can even jump onto beds and couches. She is a perfect reminder to never give up!!!

Salem - At just a few weeks of age this little guy was found abandoned with an injured hind leg. He was accepted by another mama cat (Zinnia) our rescue had at the time with her litter and became part of the family. As he grew it became evident his leg would need amputation. Now as a 3 legged stud muffin this guy is happy and playful. He is living his best life in his adoptive home

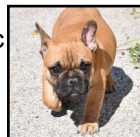


Cole - Surrendered to us when he could no longer be cared for. At one year of age this 85 pound handsome guy had a hind end gait that just wasn't right. With x-rays, we were told he had severe hip dysplasia. Without hesitation, we were able to do a corrective hip surgery at Veterinary Specialty Center. He now runs and plays with his chocolate lab sister in his adoptive home and is loved SO MUCH!!

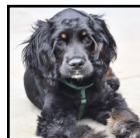
Skip - This awesome, amazing boy was hit by a car and sustained an injury to his front leg that was incurable. Sadly, he had to suffer for almost a year with this painful leg before he came to us. Within hours we had the leg removed surgically and he began his next step to a better life. He is great with all people & dogs. He is just as active as a border collie should be!! He is still waiting for his adoptive family to scoop him up!!!!



JD & Mignon - These two little piglets were surrendered to us due to a heart condition called Pulmonic Stenosis. With specialty surgery under the cardiology team at Veterinary Specialty Center we were able to give them a longer happier life!! They are both with their forever families now and doing great!!



Willow - Willow is a rare Gem of a puppy!! She came to us fecal and urinary incontinent due to a congenital malformation of her rectum and vulva! We are so grateful that the surgical team at Veterinary Specialty Center was able to fix this!!! She has gained so much control and is learning to potty like a normal puppy. We are confident she will be the perfect puppy she was born to be in no time!!



As we close 2023 we want to wish everyone a safe warm holiday. We want all our supporters to know that we will continue to work hard connecting with animals in need and doing our absolute best to always provide impeccable medical care to each and every one. We are grateful for all the support we receive from our community of donors, fosters, followers and volunteers, and our professional partners like Care Animal Hospital of Libertyville and Skycrest Animal Clinic. Rescue truly does take a village!!!

Please consider making a donation to Placing Paws so we can save more pets and help more people in 2024!



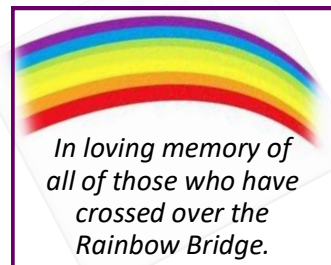
Scan the QR code to bring you directly to our donation page

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, Stephanie and Robyn



Please "Like" Placing Paws Rescue on Facebook.

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