

Petite Paws Gazette

January 2010



Our newsletter this month focuses on the heart and soul of our organization, our Volunteers! Each one of our 'Rescue Angels' dedicates their own time to help this organization and our foster pups. Our foster parents give 24/7 taking care of the needs of these precious creatures until a permanent home can be found.

We have a few heartwarming stories from our actual foster parents this month plus actual accounts of what being a part of this organizations means to our volunteers. We are so blessed to have such devoted people on our team.

This is a long Newsletter this month, but so worth the read. We hope you enjoy the stories. Perhaps one of them will convince you to join our family. We are always in need of foster homes and volunteers.

Volunteerism: vol-un-teer-ism (noun)

the practice of using volunteer workers, especially in community service or educational organizations and programs

Our Volunteers who work endless hours to save pets from the horrors of abuse and homelessness bring these messages to you.

"I am only one, but I am still one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. And just because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do." ~ Helen Keller ~

Life as a Foster Mom- Living with a dog with allergies

If you are familiar with Petite Paws' website, you may have seen Mia featured as one of the "Please Sponsor Me" fosters. I'm Mia's foster mom. She is my first foster, and I have gotten quite an education on canine care through her.



Poor Mia had allergy problems from the get-go. Her first family had her from puppyhood until she was 4. They felt terrible giving her up, but they felt they couldn't do anything more to relieve her suffering. I imagine that a good part of the reason they gave her up was they couldn't stand to watch her suffer and not be able to do anything about it. She was on special food, prednisone, special shampoos and rinses-and she still scratched herself so badly that her sides were hairless and raw from scratching. They had resorted to keeping her dressed in shirts so she wouldn't hurt herself.

My first step was to pick the brains of the Petite Paws foster moms who had far more experience than I in this area. As a result, I immediately switched her food to one with no grains and a single-source protein. Even though her family had her on a prescription food for allergies, it was loaded with carbs, which can be a big no-no for allergies. I also started her on a salmon oil supplement. These two steps helped her tremendously, but she still scratched WAY too much, still got hot spots and irritated skin. My next step was an appointment with a local vet that followed an integrative philosophy. They used conventional medicine, but also were familiar with holistic and alternative treatments. They ran blood tests, then started a series of evaluations where they would measure her levels of inflammation, which reflected her body's autoimmune system run amok--which is what allergies are.

I can't even list all the substances she is sensitive to-certain meats, grains, pollens, molds, dust, etc. She is sensitive to household cleaning products, and her immune system even has a reaction to certain metals-and chlorine-so NO BLEACH! This also means she must drink filtered or distilled water. I have learned to read labels on everything! I learned about the marvelous properties of apple cider vinegar. I learned about the benefits of a raw diet, which I have found is the best for dogs with these kinds of issues. My ultimate goal throughout all of this is to have her live a comfortable life drug-free. I now know how her first family felt-when she is beside herself scratching, it is just agonizing to watch her.

I set my alarm earlier in the morning now. All 3 of my dogs eat different foods (I am also dealing with one of my own furbabies who has liver issues). I line up the bowls, measure out the food, add in the individual medicines/supplements. Mia is VERY food-motivated, so she is ALWAYS done first, then goes and hangs out behind my other two, hoping to snatch a bit of theirs. I have to make sure she doesn't eat any of Izzy's food because it is carb-based (no sugars for Mia). I don't know how the foster mom's who

deal with the physical problems of many dogs do it-they have my utmost admiration.

Why do I do this? My little Mia is SOOO worth it! She is the sweetest, happiest, most loving little girl in the world. When she runs up to me with one of her squeaky toys in her mouth, squeaking it for all she's worth, my heart melts. How can you not do this for such an angel? So, she keeps scratching, and I keep changing the way I live. She keeps improving every day, but still has far to go. I'll be with her every step of the way.

Gayle Orlando - Foster Mom



In late November, Gayle and hubby Jim decided to adopt Mia. We could not be more lucky or have found any better a forever home for this precious little girl. We wish them many happy years together!

A Typical Day? (I don't think so)

Today when a potential client called I was ecstatic. He had an accent and was calling from overseas so it was a difficult conversation, especially since my hearing, eyesight and other vital organs went south a few winters ago and haven't found their way back home yet. But that is another story.

My dogs didn't like me on the phone so they did everything in their power to get my attention. They squeaked their squeakers; they barked at shadows behind the windows, they jumped into my lap. I went into the bathroom to have a normal conversation. The dogs scratched at the door, and barked, I thought maybe I should get into the shower and close the door but a Blessing came upon me. Quiet, Quiet, Quiet, Thank you, thank you. I conversed for the next five minutes and left the bathroom or should I call it my office?

The dogs greeted me at the door with their vital love language appendages going a mile a minute. They were so happy I was out of the bathroom/office. What good quiet dogs. I turned the corner and looked into my laundry room. I was supposed to mend a cushion that was in there but now it was scattered everywhere. "Who did that?" "Who did that?" "OMG who tore up the pillow?"



Well at first they were all very proud and jumped and wagged their whole bodies until they realized there wasn't happiness in my voice or a smile on my face. Then they all looked ashamed and rejected like "I didn't do it." "It could only have been one of these other scoundrels." Pointing the paw each one passed the blame "look at them don't they look guilty?" "I look sweet and innocent, I love

you and lick your hand, here let me lick your hand right now." "Isn't that better?" "Does that bring your blood pressure down?" "It brings mine down when you pet me, I'll lick your face too, who else will do that?"

There was a lecture given about behavior and respect, we all need to get a long in the house without negative destructive behavior, after the lecture, I said "I was sorry asked for forgiveness gave kisses and said I wouldn't get mad again."

Niki Downey - Foster Mom



Eli's Story

I had the honor of taking in little Eli and also got to foster him for a few weeks until we moved him for his vetting. Eli came in at 8 weeks old. He is a Yorkie-poo that was surrendered to our rescue because his mom was bred with one of her offspring. We don't know how many puppies were born, but we were contacted to take Eli because he was the last one left and he is blind.

Eli was my first experience with a blind puppy and it was truly been an eye-opening experience for me. Eli does not realize that he should be able to see and he is just a very happy little puppy.

I was amazed every day watching Eli deal with his condition. He would be playing with the two other puppies here and would lose them when they take off and run around. Eli stopped what he is doing, put his little nose in the air and smells all around him. Once he figured out which direction he should go, he took off full speed ahead. He had the lay-out of my kitchen figured out and did not run into too many things. We accommodated Eli by making sure everything was always in the same place. I have fostered many dogs, but Eli was definitely one of a kind and was a true inspiration to me and my family on how adaptable dogs are to their current circumstances.

Theresa Allen - Foster Director

From Our Volunteers:

Being a Volunteer for Petite Paws means knowing I'm taking part in the

movement to bring about a time when there will be No More Homeless Pets.

Being a Foster Mom means knowing he is one less dog that will go a day without food, shelter, and the love of a parent until he gets his forever home.

Jennifer Schlundt - Foster Mom

I'm a new member who can't foster, so I try to help out any other way I can. It gives me a chance to know that these little ones are truly being helped and adopted. My heart swells with each story. I do feel I make a difference and will continue to do so. Petite Paws is a godsend.

Bonnie Walker - Volunteer

To be a volunteer for IPPRA is most rewarding. Every time a rescued dog finds a forever home my heart does a happy dance. The work I do to contribute to the rescue efforts is all worthwhile, if I can help to get an abused dog into a loving home.

Gertrud White - Crafting Coordinator

When I decided to volunteer with Petite Paws Rescue Angels I had no idea what I was in store for (or more appropriately what was in store for me). This organization has allowed me the opportunity to meet new people who have an enormous amount of love for our little pups. Also, I have been blessed to be a foster mom and there is nothing better in this world than loving on these wonderful pups. I love the fact that I can make their lives a little bit better...some for only weeks and some for months. Volunteering can sometimes be a lot of work and very time-consuming, but there is no greater act that we, as humans, can do for those that need it most. Thank you so much for allowing me to be a part of a wonderful organization.

Jennifer Hancock - Foster Mom

Whether fostering, crafting items or working the events - I know that I really am making a difference in the lives of our rescues. It is an indescribable feeling that comes with doing & giving that which is within your heart.

Stephanie Jobe - Adoption Coordinator

It is so hard to put into words. I have a love for all animals. When you hear about and then see the mills first hand it all comes together. These poor babies we rescue from mills or take in for surrender look to us for love, kindness, and security. They do not have a voice-we are it. The dear Lord put us here to care for his creatures. I am proud to be able to help care for these dogs. I wanted purpose to my life- I found it in volunteering to help with the rescue.

Jeanette Strohm - Foster Mom - Event Coordinator

It is very rewarding to me to know I am able to play a small part in helping pups in need. It is also very nice to meet and work with our other members and get to know them.

Michelle Jones - Transport Coordinator

Being a volunteer with this group and knowing that Yorkies and other small dogs are able to find good homes through it makes me feel very warm inside.

Karen Phillips - Volunteer

Volunteering has given me a place to focus my love for animals. It has given me much more information about animal welfare issues, so I can share what I know with other pet owners and the public at large. Through sharing in Petite Paws, I learn about healing, survivorship, forgiveness and love. Some endings are bittersweet, but they are all touched by love. Over and over it is demonstrated that love is the strongest power in the universe.

I am so encouraged to see the forgiveness and ability to love and thrive that is demonstrated by the dogs that come into rescue after hard beginnings. If they can go on to love and be happy, isn't that a great example for me too?

Finally, it is encouraging to know that other people share my interest in animal welfare.

Angela Stryck - Grant Coordinator

Being a volunteer means changing the life of a dog, one dog at a time, as a volunteer it means that I have a responsibility to get the word out to as many people as possible about adoption and teaching them the results of buying from pet stores and backyard breeders.

Ailisha Scartozzi - Volunteer

Volunteering is different for everyone. I volunteer with the church because Jesus said Love one another, I volunteer at The Locker because one man's trash is another man's treasure. I volunteer at the library because I get the first pick on the new large print books. I volunteer at the school because it makes for a better society, I volunteer at my poll because it is a freedom we have in this country. I volunteer at Petite Paws because I am loved unconditionally by my foster pup.

Niki Downey - Foster Mom

What it means to me to volunteer with Petite Paws Rescue.....It means that I am making a difference in saving a dog's life and helping them to go to a new and wonderful home. To have that feeling of accomplishment means more than words can express. My heart is fulfilled when a dog is saved and that I am making a difference, no matter how small of a part I have in it. It is teamwork, friendship and a lot of prayers. We are a family and that to me means more than anything!

Heather Shingler - Public Relations Director

Volunteering with the rescue means that I can help save lives and speak for those that cannot speak for themselves. I love animals and feel they need as many advocates as possible. If I can make a difference in just one dog's life, then I have made progress. If I can make a difference for multiple dogs, then I am making a difference in the world.

Terri Clegg - Executive Secretary

I have had Yorkies off and on for most of my adult life. When I was looking to add a Yorkie to the family in 2006, I started looking at the various rescue groups' websites. I soon focused on Petite Paws, partly because they were fairly close to where I lived, but also I was touched by the stories of each foster. After adopting from Petite Paws, I realized that I had some time to give, had always loved dogs, and what better way to put my spare time to good use? It is very rewarding to me to be a part of making sure these little ones get good homes. Every one we save means one less dog is euthanized somewhere. I am very proud to be part of such a dedicated group who work together to save as many as we can.

I am of an age where I know a lot of people who are retired or in the process of retiring. It amazes me that so very few of them volunteer anywhere. There is so much need in the world and so much we could all do if we work together. It sometimes is overwhelming to see how badly help is needed wherever you turn. I think the secret to doing good is to pick one area where you know you can help and start there. Who knows where it will lead you?

Gayle Orlando - Fundraising Director

Fostering gets me out of bed in the morning. It is the most rewarding thing I've ever done.

Connie Diller - Vice President

To me, the meaning of life is, to do something that makes a difference, so I answered my calling to be a guardian and a voice for the voiceless. Nothing

in my life has ever been more rewarding.

Barb Beck - Founder & Executive Director

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Help Us Continue Our Mission

Want to make a meaningful difference in YOUR life? Join us! Visit our site and complete a volunteer application: Click [HERE](#)

I am so honored to have such fabulous volunteers to help in so many ways. They are all indeed "Rescue Angels".

See you next month!

Warmly,

Barb Beck
Petite Paws Rescue Angels, Inc.

Thank You to our Generous Supporters

Denine Bosak
Peggy McCain
Sharon Hylek
Carolyn Culver
Judith A. Hall
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Bonita Walker
Christie Serritella
Penny Emerson
Ronald Huseman
Vicki Forst

Please Note the Change in Our Mailing Address

Petite Paws Rescue
PO Box 3025
Elida, OH 45807

Be sure to check out our newest "Senior Adoption Program".

Petite Paws encourages mature citizens to consider adopting a rescue dog. We offer a discounted adoption donation to anyone 55* and older who would like to adopt one of our foster kids that is one year of age and older.

Please visit our foster's home on the web [HERE](#)

Upcoming Events

1/24/10 - Petsmart - Hobart
2/07/10 - Petsmart - Hobart
2/14/10 - Petsmart - Indy
2/28/10 - Petsmart - Hobart

Visit our Events page for details of times and addresses.

[Our Events Page](#)

December Adoptions

Minnee - 12/5
Newman - 12/12

Please stay tuned for our upcoming Valentines Day Fundraising Campaign.

Gale Carmona
Kristina Cassidy
Pedigree Adoption Drive

to find your perfect match. You can always find that special pupster to be your Valentine and maybe just in time for that special holiday.

*You must be willing to provide proof of age at the home visit stage of the adoption process in order to receive the discount.



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