



www.poundpuppyrescue.org

Volume 1 | Issue 1



Winter 2008

Seven and a half years ago, Pound Puppy Rescue was born from one woman's love for animals and her passion for saving lives. In her own words, this is her story.

A Look Back: Pound Puppy Rescue's Very First Rescue

by Kathleen (PPR founder)

In April of 2001 I began volunteering at a rural animal shelter in Northern California. I was one of only two volunteers, so the dogs had very few opportunities to get out of their kennels. The shelter had a very high euthanasia rate (68%) due to overcrowding. I began walking the dogs daily because they were caged, stressed, and unloved, and my heart ached knowing that was how most of them were going to spend their final days.

In my first week at the shelter, I watched in horror as an animal control officer held a beautiful Border Collie puppy by the scruff of the neck and carried it at arm's length into the euthanasia room. Before the two remaining puppies met the same fate, I gathered them up and brought them home. I found a home for Jenna, and I kept her brother, Charlie. Charlie has been the most wonderful addition to our family these past 7 years. He is friendly, sweet and gives daily doses of unconditional love and devotion. We lovingly refer to him as the border collie on stilts.



Charlie, the Border Collie on stilts

he placed the box in my car so I could take them home. I realized shelters were unhealthy and unsafe places where pups are at risk for disease and euthanasia, so I took the puppies home, gave them love, had them spayed/neutered, and found forever homes for all of them. That is how Pound Puppy Rescue began!

During my second week volunteering, an entire litter of pups was euthanized -- again, due to overcrowding. A few days later, a man drove up to the shelter with a box full of puppies in the trunk of his car. At my request,

Welcome to the very first edition of Pound Puppy Rescue's quarterly newsletter! We are a volunteer-run organization whose purpose is to keep puppies out of overcrowded shelters where they are at risk for disease and euthanasia. We foster puppies in our homes, where we keep them healthy and well-socialized until they are old enough to go to their "forever homes". Our hope is that all puppies placed through our organization will never experience being homeless or unloved again.

In this newsletter, we'll share stories about what we do and tell happy tales about the happy tails we meet along the way!

And what about the shelter's other volunteer? Within a year, she recruited over 100 volunteers to ensure that each dog had two walks daily. Through her love and determination, the shelter's euthanasia rate was reduced to 3%. Furthermore, the euthanasia room was converted into a spay/neuter room so that no dog left the shelter unaltered. It's amazing what a difference just one person can make.

How Did My Home Become a Puppy Hotel?

by Anna (foster)

It's 4 a.m., and my husband's snoring has woken me up, again. I shift positions in bed, just to find that he has done it again. He has brought our 50 pound Shepherd mix dog Scout into bed with us, under the covers again! They are spooning, like they always do. My little dog Skip is at my feet, so it is impossible to move without disturbing all of them. I decide to go downstairs for a cup of warm milk to try to ease myself back to sleep.

With flashlight in hand, I am quiet as a mouse, trying carefully to not wake up Brandi and her 6 puppies, sleeping blissfully in their puppy pen. Work is demanding, and every Saturday and Sunday I am

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(How Did My Home..., continued)

running up and down a soccer field with teenagers, trying to referee their game. It's my busiest time of year, and I had no business taking in this mother dog and newborn pups. But a picture of a helpless creature with the saddest story was on my computer screen. How could I reject them?



Anna's houseguests: Brandi's Soccer litter

This little Jack Russell/Beagle mix wandered into someone's barn in the central valley and had her puppies. The people who owned the barn would not feed her, because it is an unwritten rule that if you feed them, they are yours. She would not leave her puppies to forage for food, so she was starving to death right before their eyes. The little boy who lived there was heartbroken at the prospect, so he told everyone who would listen about her. Finally, the school bus driver told someone who got the mom and pups, and put that pathetic picture on my screen. You can surmise the rest.

As I open my refrigerator to get the milk, the noise makes all the little ears perk up, and soon I hear the little whimpers saying "Pick me up, pick me up." And of course when they wake up, I need to clean up. They have been here for over a month, and next week I will be handing them off to their loving adoptive families. Everyone asks me, "Isn't it hard to give them up?" And my answer is always the same, "Yes, but tomorrow morning I get to sleep in, and you will be doing the cleaning."

Our home has become a haven for the homeless, sick and starving. It is a tremendous amount of work, but we get back far more than we give. Ten years ago our oldest child was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. He was 15. As a mother, I can't tell you what it was like to watch my child suffer in pain and agony, and helpless to stop it. His life was not in my hands. There was nothing I could do that would determine a positive outcome, and that has a way of breaking a mother. My son survived, and is living a full and happy life, but the scar it left on my heart remains.

I can't cure cancer. I can't save all of the children that we met at the hospital. I can't bring peace to the Middle East. But I can save these puppies. This is something I can do, and we do this as a family to make a difference in the world.

Fighting for Bleu

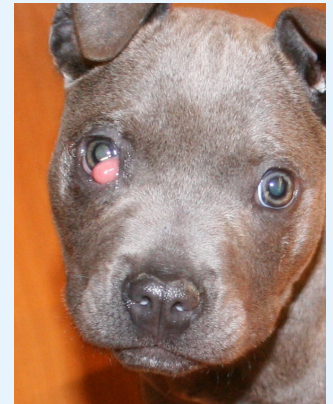
by Lisa (adopting family)

The first dog our family adopted from Pound Puppy Rescue was Maggie, a timid rescue dog from Taiwan. We chose her because of her sweetness and vulnerability, but soon realized she would benefit from some quality canine company. When I expressed to PPR that I would consider Pit Bull mixes, I had yet to realize that my family would inadvertently be drafted to fight a cause we barely knew existed.

PPR contacted us about a "special" puppy -- a blue nose Pit Bull born with a "cherry eye". Bleu was abandoned by his breeders because they did not want to pay for the surgery necessary to have the ugly red growth removed. PPR brought Bleu into their rescue and paid for the surgery.

We arranged to have a "play date" between Bleu and Maggie and it was a tremendous success.

During this visit, the rescue volunteer spoke candidly to us about the nuances of owning a Pit Bull. They have a terrible reputation and will instill ugliness and fear in people, she warned. Bred for



Bleu with his cherry eye

How You Can Help

If you'd like to get involved, there are many volunteering opportunities available, including:

- Fostering
- Home Checks
- Event Coordination
- Web Maintenance & Development
- Transport
- Adoption Counselor
- Marketing

Visit www.poundpuppyrescue.org or email poundpuppyrescue@hotmail.com for more info.

If you don't have time to spare but would still like to help, there are several ways to make a tax-deductible donation.

- Give online by clicking the "Donate" button on our website
- Send checks to Pound Puppy Rescue at:

**11208 Golden Way
Nevada City, CA 95959**

Don't forget to check with your employer about matching your contributions!



strength and gameness, these dogs attract a very specific type of owner. These are the macho dogs, the designer accessory for young urban males. We realized we had to perform some serious Pit Bull due diligence before coming to a final decision.

After many hours of internet research, I realized that this breed has been sorely misunderstood. Once a highly sought-after breed for families with children, they have a long and bloody history that is painfully manmade. Most surprising were the results of a study done by the American Temperament Testing Society (www.atts.org). In the study, over 28,000 breeds were tested for stability, shyness, aggressiveness, and friendliness, as well as the dog's instinct for protectiveness towards its handler and itself in the face of a threat. The average pass rate is 81.6% for all breeds. Pit Bulls scored a very respectable 84.3%, exceeding the scores of typical beloved "family" dogs such as Golden Retrievers (84.2%), Beagles (80.3%), and the ever popular Collie (79.4%). Books about the breed made it clear that objective, historical data supporting the gentle, hearty nature of the Pit Bull has been buried underneath a mass of hysterical misinformation.

There is no denying there have been Pit Bulls that have caused damage and pain to people and other dogs. But these dogs are victims of the human company they keep. It is these neglected and abused Pit Bulls, abandoned, with little to no social skills, who have caused the horror we hear about in the media. Fortunately, such dogs are anomalies. There are countless tales of abused and neglected adult Pit Bulls being rescued, socialized and trained to become loving pets.

Needless to say, we decided to adopt Bleu and have never regretted our decision. Bleu had his operation and is now even more handsome than he was. Eager to make him a good canine citizen, we take him and Maggie with us whenever we can. The wiggly, friendly Bleu has made a sensation wherever we go. People love his sweetness and how he sits politely when offered a treat. Again and again, people express pleasant surprise and sometimes downright shock when we reveal he is a Pit Bull. We find ourselves often educating people about the true nature of this misunderstood breed.



Bleu, post-surgery, more handsome than ever in his dapper outfit

Ironically, Bleu is a better advocate for his breed than me or my husband. People can doubt our words, but they cannot doubt the gentle, sweet dog they see before them. Human beings have the ability to reason and if we draw upon this faculty instead of embracing fear, these dogs may have a chance to redeem their good name.

PPR Helps Nicky Live Happily Ever After

by Kathleen (founder) and Susan (foster)

Nicky was adopted at 8 weeks of age by a very nice family with children. Unfortunately, this *original family* did not fully comprehend the time and energy required to properly raise a dog. Not to worry. As you may have guessed by the designation of *original*, the family eventually returned Nicky. PPR ultimately found Nicky his *forever family*, with whom he remains to this day.

All too often, pets are adopted for the wrong reasons. Many parents want a family dog because they have fond memories of growing up with a dog and/or they want to teach their children responsibility. The reality is that families are often so busy with their children's activities that the puppy gets put on the back burner. The novelty wears off soon after bringing a puppy home and reality sinks in when the puppy cries (loudly), bites (yes puppies bite), digs in the yard, chews the furniture, and goes potty in the house. Puppies grow quickly, and before anyone realizes it, the cute little puppy is 6 months old, full of energy, jumping up, and knocking down small children. All of this is normal puppy behavior, but if not trained, the behavior escalates.

To their credit, Nicky's original family realized that the situation was not working for them or for Nicky and contacted PPR. They no longer wanted Nicky. He was one year old. Little Nicky couldn't talk, but his demeanor and actions told us everything. He arrived shaking with his tail between his legs, with no knowledge of basic commands, and was not housebroken. It was apparent that Nicky was not properly socialized or trained.

Luckily for Nicky, he was cared for by a PPR foster who understood his needs and had the compassion and patience to work with him. With a little understanding and training, Nicky blossomed into the wonderful dog that he is.



Little Nicky

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FEATURED PUPS: Reindeer Litter



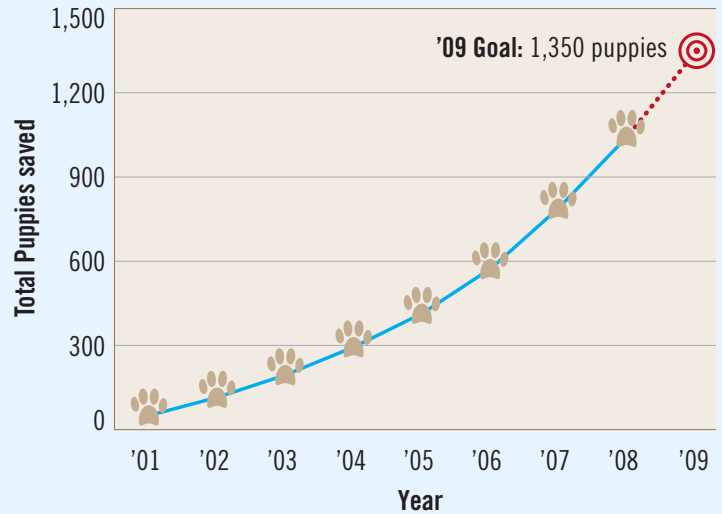
Nana was rescued from a rural town where she had been abandoned -- starving and 4-5 weeks pregnant. PPR gave her a safe warm home to deliver her puppies and has since been caring for her and her litter of 8.

Nana and her puppies (including one "special needs" pup) will be ready to go to their *forever homes* right after the holidays! For more info about the Reindeer Litter, visit www.poundpuppyrescue.org and click "Find a Pet".



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Nevada City, CA 95959

PPR hits 1,000 total lives saved!



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(PPR Helps Nicky Live Happily Ever After, continued)

Comments from Susan (Nicky's foster):

I was a new volunteer for Pound Puppy Rescue when sweet little Nicky joined my family as our foster dog. The first time I met Nicky he was cowering in the back of his crate in the transporter's car. With a little persuasion I was able to coax him out. Nicky was shaking, so I quietly brought him into our home and placed him in his own crate. It was a difficult first few days, but soon he came to trust me and enjoy our home.

Over time my family and I became very fond of Nicky. He always wanted to please us but he had no confidence and frightened easily. When frightened he would have "submissive peeing". This is not uncommon with small

dogs and can be very frustrating. With time and patience most dogs will stop this behavior. I discovered if I kept my voice low and calm then Nicky would stay calm. It was wonderful watching his confidence being restored over time and seeing him come out of his shell. Nicky learned to trust us and became a very happy dog. He just needed someone to understand him and spend the time to work with him.

I fostered Nicky for six weeks and in that time he learned "sit", "down", "wait", "come here", "go potty", "cookie", "go lie down" and "wait". He loved going for rides in the car and spent many days at the park with my son and his friends. Nicky would trot along next to me as I rode my bike around the neighborhood. After interviewing many potential adopters we were finally able to match Nicky with the perfect family where he will forever be loved and treasured!