



Everything Rosie

RESCUE-HOPE-LOVE

Remembering Rosie

Rosie's Story

Backyard breeding and animal hoarding are sadly nothing new. But with the internet making it so easy to sell animals quickly and anonymously, this unethical practice is still thriving. In places where animal limits are enforced by law, these operations require keeping dogs, cats and other pets hidden from neighbors and local authorities. Taking these animals to the vet would lead to discovery of their appalling conditions. So they perpetuate, without proper care, without medical care, without love. They inbreed without regard until there are dozens or more of sick animals living in filth. Buyers willing to purchase puppies without proper research - over the internet, in public parking lots, and from pet stores - create the demand that continues the cycle of greed and suffering.

In 2012, a backyard breeder/hoarder in a quiet Los Angeles suburb lost her house, and she had to find someone to take over 40 dogs that no one - not even her next-door neighbors - knew to exist. These dogs had never seen sunlight, never had medical care and were terrified of the outside world. There were puppies, pregnant mothers, dogs so matted it was impossible to identify what lay underneath. As with any situation where dogs are inbred, there were several with congenital defects - in this case some were born without front legs.

And then there was Rosie.

Rosie was born on Valentine's Day, 2010. She had congenital deformities of the face, jaw, spine, and legs. By adulthood, twice the amount of teeth was crammed into her long, misshapen upper jaw. Oversized curved teeth hooked up from a half-sized lower jaw. Rosie couldn't close her mouth. Her tongue was trapped at the back of her throat, and there was no way to chew. She struggled to eat by scooping food backward into her mouth. When she was a few months old, her front leg bones stopped growing. As the bones fused, she learned to walk on the first third of her front legs rather than on her twisted and curving feet. Her spine was twisted by scoliosis. Poor nutrition and filthy living conditions resulted in mange that robbed her of most of her fur. Living in darkness, her eyes had trouble adjusting to any form of light.

And yet Rosie survived. In the house where no one knew she and others were suffering, she hid under furniture for protection. Despite her deformities, she crawled across urine-soaked floors, through years of feces, to find what bits of food the others left behind. She lived this way for two years. Others in her family had lived for many more years in these hellish conditions. Others had died there too, with no hope and no help.

But in the summer of 2012, life changed for Rosie and her family as the news broke about their desperate need. It started with one person passing by, who stopped, and chose to help. Rescuers persisted in their attempts to draw these dogs, a few at a time, from their terrible conditions. Rosie was adopted by Cinnamon Muhlbauer and Ed DeGenaro, who have included many special-needs animals in their family through the years.

But Rosie's case was daunting. She needed so much care that it truly took a village...and eventually a worldwide community...to save her. Funds were quickly raised for initial medical treatment, and a Facebook page, Everything Rosie, established to keep her supporters apprised of her journey and of the situation for other dogs in the Los Angeles case. More hands reached out to help Rosie and others. The dedicated healers at Malibu Vet Clinic poured their expertise and love into her rehabilitation. Her profile appeared in the news

media, radio, blogs and magazines. Within the first three months of her rescue, Rosie had undergone two major surgeries to remove her extra teeth and repair her jaw. She began to grow fur again. Her eyes began to adjust to light. And what a life she embraced! She discovered squeaky toys, soft blankets, and her favorite treat, whipped cream. She loved to go to the beach and watch the waves and surfers. She had to wear protective clothing, and turned into a fashion diva! She helped her mom Cinnamon rescue a litter of newborn kittens, and was a dedicated and loving foster mama to her special kitten Ophelia.

Rosie underwent surgery again this summer, to remove a damaged salivary gland. Recovery, though steady, was very slow. Then, the shock: In early October, Rosie began to experience respiratory problems, and in just a few days, she was gone. On October 10, 2013, Rosie pressed her face to Cinnamon's, and then left this world. Her doctors confirmed that nothing could have been done. The ticking time bomb of her genetics - all because of one person's greed - had simply run out.

But this will not be Rosie's legacy.

This tiny girl with the big love for life has raised our spirits and broken our hearts. Rosie's story has built a network of love and action for others like her who have been saved, and for thousands more who are still suffering in the dark, waiting for us to find them. Some like Rosie will need a great deal of medical support. Others will need only what every dog needs and deserves - a home and a loving family. This weekend as we honor her life together, we also pledge to continue the work she inspired...and to remain a family united in her memory. We celebrate and remember Everything Rosie!

Rosie's Legacy - Where do we go from here?

We hope that Rosie's memorial will be one step in uniting her worldwide family in a mission to stop the suffering of animals at the hands of those who breed for greed. Please continue to participate in the Everything Rosie community on Facebook to see action alerts and other ways you can help, and meet more of Rosie's friends who have been saved from these terrible circumstances. Rosie was saved because someone was willing to stop and get involved. What are you willing to do?

Remembering Rosie
EverythingRosie.com

Special thanks to Rosie's family
Cinnamon Muhlbauer and Ed DeGenaro

Technical support by
Lisa Murphy, Diann Shepard, Peg Banks

Inspiration by
Rosie