



Everything Rosie

RESCUE-HOPE-LOVE

Remembering Rosie: A Worldwide Celebration Friday, November 8, 2013 - Sunday, November 10, 2013

Dear Friends of Rosie:

The response to a worldwide Rosie memorial has been tremendous, and we are excited to invite you to this weekend of celebration! Wherever we can, we want to get people out to meet others who followed Rosie, not just to mourn her passing, but to shine a light on those like her who are still suffering alone in the dark. Where face-to-face isn't possible, we want to unite Rosie's worldwide family via the Internet. Keeping Rosie's legacy alive doesn't take millions of dollars, it only takes all of us talking to people--our neighbors, friends, family and colleagues--about hoarding and backyard breeding. It only takes stepping outside of your idea of a perfect dog or cat when you adopt, and reaching instead for the blind, the old, the sick, the not so perfect pet. I say perfect... but what does that mean? To me Rosie was as perfect as one can get. I wish for all of you to connect to another soul (of any species) the way I connected to my Rosie. She was and is an amazing blessing.

Eddie and I are immensely grateful to everyone for your love and support. We could not have done anything for Rosie without your help. We truly hope that for the sake of our beautiful Rosie, the girl who stole hearts, you will help keep Rosie's memory alive. We can really do something wonderful if we work together. Please don't let Rosie's story end here.

Peace,



Cinnamon and Rosie

Remembering Rosie - Resources for Public Events, Private Gatherings, and Individuals

Thank you for joining us in Remembering Rosie: A Worldwide Celebration. Anyone can participate in this event. Share this celebration with the world--but make it your own! In the following pages are suggestions to help you get started, and elements you might want to include in your own ceremony. Look at the sections that interest you, use the parts that appeal to you, and add your own ideas. **The only "requirement" we ask is that every event, large or small, include the reading of Rosie's Story.**

The message of this celebration is threefold. First, to celebrate our Rosie, whose short life had such a tremendous impact! Second, to renew our commitment to stop the suffering of animals at the hands of those who breed for greed. Third, to promote the wonderful special-needs animals who need to be rescued, fostered, and adopted. Let's start the work with a worldwide wave!

www.everythingrosie.com/remembering-rosie-a-worldwide-celebration/

Remembering Rosie: A Worldwide Celebration Resources and Suggestions

Public Events

Announcing your event - Organizing your event - Personalizing your event - Including Rosie's story, music, also - Including local issues and advocacy - Sharing your event worldwide

Private Gatherings

Creating your event - Inviting friends and family - Personalizing your event - Including Rosie's story, music, slideshow - Sharing your event worldwide

Individual Memorials

Creating your personal ceremony - Including Rosie's story, music, slideshow - Sharing your event worldwide

Resources to Use

Rosie's Story - Suggested Playlist - Slideshow - Other Ideas

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

Public Events

To create a public Rosie memorial event, please provide the event time, place, and organizer's contact info so that we can have others in your area contact you directly to participate. A public event doesn't have to be a large event; it just needs to be one that anyone can choose to attend. If the memorial weekend dates don't work for you, that's okay! Just choose a date that does.

Announcing your event: Please send an email to Team Rosie at rosieslegacy@gmail.com with time, place, and contact info. We will post your information on the 'Everything Rosie' Facebook community page, while you also reach out to others via social media and your local contacts. If your plans are changed or canceled, email us.

Organizing your event: If we have multiple people in the same vicinity who are willing to host a public event, we'll do our best to connect you so that you can combine your efforts if possible. Depending on where you are choosing to have your gathering, you may need to check on whether a local permit is required.

Personalizing your event: Whether you rely on the elements provided by Everything Rosie, or choose to create your own completely distinct event, is entirely up to you. Think about what will be most meaningful for your participants. The only required element is that in order to bring unity to a worldwide event, we ask everyone to include the reading of Rosie's Story.

Including Rosie's story, music, slideshow: Rosie's Story and a playlist of suggested music is included in this packet. To access the slideshow, visit Rosie's webpage at www.everythingrosie.com/remembering-rosie-a-worldwide-celebration. The slideshow also has an accompanying soundtrack.

Including local issues and advocacy: If you are an animal advocate, you may already have contacts and information on how the issues of backyard breeding and animal hoarding have impacted your community. You might want to invite local people with experience in these issues to share their thoughts at your event.

Sharing your event worldwide: Please be sure to post a photo (or photos) of your gathering on the Everything Rosie community Facebook page. Include your location and any comments you wish to share.

Private Gatherings

Creating your event: Private gatherings will not be announced publicly. Simply determine a time and place (a private home or a local park, perhaps). Private gatherings can be as ceremonial or informal as you wish.

Inviting friends and family: Ask your friends, colleagues, or social media contacts to join you in sharing Rosie's memory and mission. This might be the chance to finally meet face-to-face with local folks you only know from social media? Ask for thoughts on what you might include in your gathering.

Personalizing your event: Whether you rely on the elements provided by Everything Rosie, or choose to create your own completely distinct event, is entirely up to you. For a small gathering, it might be a chance to simply have each person share their reflections on the impact of Rosie's story and others. Think about what will be most meaningful for your participants. The only required element is that in order to bring unity to a worldwide event, we ask everyone to include the reading of Rosie's Story.

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Sharing your event worldwide: Please be sure to post a photo (or photos) of your gathering on the Everything Rosie community Facebook page. Include your location and any comments you wish to share.

Individual Memorials

Most of us first learned of Rosie's story while sitting alone at our computers. Since then, we have formed a large community, but the majority of memorials will be 'celebrations' of one that occur in many places around the world. What a beautiful way to join our hearts as a worldwide family.

Creating your personal ceremony: You may already have a tradition of meditation or prayer that suits a reflection on Rosie's impact in your life. Think about whether you'd like to be indoors with lighted candles, or outdoors in a natural setting. You might want to write your own thoughts to contemplate on.

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Sharing your event worldwide: Please be sure to post a photo (or photos) from your personal ceremony on the Everything Rosie community Facebook page. Include your location and any comments you wish to share.

Resources to Use - As You Choose!

Rosie's Story
Music - Rosie's Mix playlist
Photo slideshow
Other ideas
Invocation reading
Benediction reading

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 were 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!

Music - Rosie's Mix playlist

"Rosie" by Dick Van Dyke
"Just the Way You Look Tonight" by Fred Astaire
"Somewhere in My Heart" by Aztec Camera
"Fly to the Angels" by Slaughter

Photo slideshow

To access the slideshow, visit Rosie's webpage at www.everythingrosie.com/remembering-rosie-a-worldwide-celebration. The slideshow also has an accompanying soundtrack.

Other ideas

Rosie's theme colors are teal, pink, and black - you might incorporate these into your decorating scheme or create ribbons for participants to wear (easy to make from craft ribbon and pins).

Activities that could serve as a focal point and add meaning may include the lighting of candles or burning sage. Prayer flags could be strung in a place where the elements will naturally fade them, and are thought to carry wisdom, compassion, strength and peace. Planting a tree (or a rose?), or scattering flower seeds or grass seeds in an outdoor area returns life to the earth. You might start the ceremony with a vase of roses, then end the ceremony by scattering the petals. (To protect other creatures and our environment, we ask that you do not release balloons in Rosie's honor.)

And if refreshments are served, don't forget the whipped cream!

Invocation reading

May Rosie's spirit and the spirits of all who celebrate her memory join us today in this place. May we be supported and comforted in our grief, and may we be cheered by the love and the memories we have shared. May we celebrate the compassion, joy, and tenderness toward other living creatures that has joined us in a worldwide community.

Benediction reading

May Rosie's spirit and the spirits of all who celebrate her memory go with us from this place. May we be encouraged and inspired to reach a hand of compassion toward other living creatures. May we keep faith and purpose, so that our voices of determination will overcome the voices of greed. May our sorrow now be lifted, and may we go forward in peace.

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: A Worldwide Celebration

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