



The Angel Report

How It All Started

Rescue Angels, Inc. was started by accident back in August of 2008. We never thought our "good deeds" would ever turn into what it has become today.

It all began when my mother found a website entitled Dogsindanger.com where a majority of the country's kill shelters displayed dogs they had in their care and how many days they had left until their scheduled end. I received a distraught phone call telling me about what she had found. When I jumped online to see for myself, tears were brought to my eyes. Photos of puppies, young dogs and seniors were posted on this website with their names, sometimes just a number, and a date bolded and in red hung above. There were hundreds!



Saint

I was actually on vacation in Puerto Rico at the time and I spent the last 3 days of my vacation trying to figure out how to help. My mother jumped right in and made contact with various shelters trying to get some to me in Virginia. The worst part was deciding who you were going to save. How could you look at hundreds and only save a few? I was scrolling through the list and one dog in particular caught my attention: Saint.

(Story Cont. on Pg. 2)

facebook

Facebook Us!

We now have a Facebook Fan Page where you can follow our updates daily! Just search for Rescue Angels, Inc!

The Yelper!

The Yelper is how we keep you in the loop about upcoming events!



We have some exciting events coming up this winter! One includes a "Photo with Santa" event at the Potomac Yard Petsmart in Alexandria, VA—dates are TBD (in December) so please check our website to find out when

Rescue Angels, Inc. Every Saturday and Sunday we host Adoption Events at the Potomac Yard Petsmart in Alexandria, VA from 1-4pm rain or shine. Please come by to meet our rescues or pop in to say "Hi!" if you've adopted one of our rescues in the past—we love to visit with them! Please visit our website under 'Events' to learn about events

we will be attending each month!



Lexi with Santa 2008

Licks & Nudges To:

Rescue Angels Volunteers who day in and day out devote endless hours to helping our dogs get to and from events, arrange transports, foster, help in the adoption process, network and spread the word! None of these dogs would be where they are today if it weren't for your hard work. We truly appreciate each and every one of you and can't even begin to express our gratitude for your loyalty to the cause!

Bed n' Bones Pet Resort of Chester, MD who has been with us from the very start by boarding our rescues and making them feel at home after being rescued. Christine Butchsky, owner, truly loves and cherishes each of our rescues that come through her door. She goes above and beyond by taking our dogs to vet appointments and helps transport them to our adoption events. Thank you Christine and all of your rescued babies love you!



Wagtime of DC who is our partner-in-crime by fostering several of our rescues until they find their forever homes! Wagtime donates their time, food and love allowing our dogs feel at home while in transition from shelter to their homes. Lisa & Ofer, we can't thank you enough for your passion and support in helping our rescue grow! You are true Angels!!

The "To-Do" List

There are many things on the "to-do" list that we as an organization would like to put a big check mark next to. Some of them including: cut down on the euthanasia/gassing rate in shelters around the country, end animal cruelty, enable all families to afford spay/neuter operations for their pets and raise awareness how important spaying and neutering is to stop the overpopulation of dogs in the country.

Those only being a few among the many, we are taking steps to try and touch upon each. We would love to open a Rescue Angels location in every state and especially the major cities. We began in Arlington, VA/DC in August of 2008 and have since opened another location in Boston, MA in this past January 2009. As of November 2009, we will have a building location in Miami, FL. That's 3 locations in just 14 months!

What we as an organization focus on are creating a friendly and personal experience for each of our adopters, rehabilitate traumatized/frightened/sick dogs and give them a second chance at happiness, and build awareness to those who may not know about the fight to end euthanasia as an answer to overpopulation. We remember each of our dogs and try our best to stay in touch with each and every one of them!

1st Annual Adopter Reunion!



We hosted our First Annual Adopter Reunion/Rescue Angels 1 Year Anniversary this past August where we were extremely excited

to see our rescues happy and healthy with their new families!

The most interesting part was trying to recognize our rescues that were small puppies upon adoption and were now big adult dogs! It was truly rewarding seeing each dog whose lives we saved and being about to watch them enjoy their second chance at life!



Schroeder and Menlow playing in the pool!



Doggie Reunion!



This Month's Star Volunteer

For the month of October our Star Volunteer is Heather Morgan who is our Foster Coordinator for our DC location.

This month, Heather has not only been juggling a hectic professional work schedule, but has also put in countless hours to ensure our rescues have fosters and make it to vet appointments and events.

Heather joined Rescue Angels as a foster back in February 2009 and has since become a management figure on top of fostering!

Thank you Heather, we love you and appreciate all that you do!



Saint with his little buddy!

(Story cont. from front page)

Saint was a 1 year old foxhound boy who had been in a North Carolina shelter for 3 months. His time was up and he had no more chances – he had to be out by the next day. I read his bio, took a deep breath and called the shelter, hoping I wasn't too late. Luckily, a sweet woman answered and I barely let her finish her greeting before I gasped, "Saint? Is he still there? Is he okay? I'm taking him!" She went silent for a moment and I heard her sigh in relief, "Thank God someone is taking that baby. He's been here way too long".

At this point, I hadn't really any idea of how I was going to get him from North Carolina to my home in Virginia while I was in Puerto Rico, but at the time, it didn't seem to cross my mind as important. I had NO clue what I was doing or if there were any rules pertaining to pulling dogs from shelters, how much it would cost, what I had to do, etc.

The nice woman answered all my frantic questions and put me in contact with a woman who drove to North Carolina from New Jersey once a month to save dogs. I arranged Saint's transport to Virginia and met him the day I arrived home from my vacation. When they pulled him off transport, he was shaking - terrified. I leaned down and pet him, soothing him in a calm voice and he looked right into my eyes. I looked back and it hit me – this was to be my purpose in life – saving those who were tossed aside and teaching them to trust and love again.

Saint was adopted by a lovely family in Maryland where he has a brother and a big yard to run and play in. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't thank Saint for helping me find my true calling and trusting me to help him get his second chance.

-Kristina Hess, Founder

The Helping Paw



Adopting or rescuing a dog is great and rewarding responsibility. Not only are you taking in a new family member, but the dog must be able to live comfortably with those already in the family. Purchasing the proper equipment and assessing whether or not the living area will be large enough for the dog.

When choosing a dog it's best to have all individuals present that will be living with it. This is important so everyone may play with the candidate to ensure the dog gets along properly and is not on a different energy level. Try taking the dog for a short walk outside and see how he/she interacts with your family members and the environment. While this is helpful, the dog will more than likely be over excited and may act differently as well, thus making it important to isolate him/her from the other dogs. Don't forget to bring any other pets that would interact with the dog on a daily basis. After deciding upon the right dog for your family, the proper equipment should be purchased and have a veterinarian do a physical on the dog.

Often dogs will have ear mites and other common shelter illnesses that can be treated easily, which makes it necessary to be taken to the veterinarian soon after adoption. Dogs that are rescued or adopted from groups and shelters generally have basic vaccinations and rabies shots. It's important to create a plan for having the rest of its vaccinations completed and to have the dog spayed or neutered if they are not already altered. Most groups and shelters have an agreement for adopted dogs to be spayed or neutered, which prevents the possibility of more stray animals and is beneficial to the animal's health.

Purchasing equipment for your dog is important and fun as it helps distinguish that he/she is part of your family. The first things purchased for the dog are the ones used most. A dog collar, tag, leash, food, and bowls for food and water are needed right away with other accessories to come later. Ensure the collar has a snug fit but you can place two fingers between the material and the dog's neck. Treats for training are also important and are helpful to show praise for listening to directions. It may also be wise to purchase puppy pads and a crate so the animal has a personal comfort area.

Adopting an animal is a lifetime responsibility but the love and affection they give back is always well worth it. With the proper care and consistent training your newly adopted pet will surely become another member of your family!

-Elliot S. Volkman

Help Out!

We can't even begin to thank everyone for the support and love you've shown our little organization! We accomplish what we do because of you! However, we are always looking to add to our rescue family. We are in need of:

Donations/Sponsorships (can be done on our website)

Fosters

Transports

Adoption Day Volunteers

Writers to complete articles for our newsletters!

Please visit our website for more information on each opportunity!



Adoption Day Volunteers get the opportunity to come play with our rescues and help them get adopted to their forever homes! (Minnie, now Lola)

Miami, FL—Our 3rd Location!

Founder Kristina Hess has recently moved to Miami, FL where she is going to start our 3rd and newest Rescue Angels location!

Focusing on the Brickell (downtown Miami), South Beach and Coral Gables area, she has already made contacts with local vets and shelters and is almost ready to start rescuing!

If you know anyone in the Miami area, please let them know about us and our volunteer opportunities!

A blog will be started so anyone can follow along with the development that goes into starting a rescue location!

Wish us luck!!



Featured Adoptable Dog



Archi is a sweet 11 month old Shepherd/Coonhound mix girl who is looking for her forever home! She has been waiting patiently for her new family and is ready to go home!