



Mosby's Mission

All About the Dogs!

PO Box 1978, Staunton, VA 24402 • 540-885-2260 • info@themosbyfoundation.org • www.themosbyfoundation.org

NEWSLETTER OF THE MOSBY FOUNDATION

Rapid City, SD



The Happy Coincidence

She made a solemn promise, whispering quietly, fervently, as her dog lay dying from cancer. "I will learn all I can about canine health. And I promise, Onyx, I will work with dogs all day, every day." As Onyx slipped away, Jennifer's heart went with him.

Inconsolable, she promised herself she would not own another dog. It was just too painful. The next year was a blur. Jennifer felt like she was sleepwalking through life, but she kept her promise to Onyx. She took classes on canine health, and she changed jobs so that she could work with dogs full-time, training and grooming them.

To ease her pain and to honor Onyx, Jennifer made little care packages of tennis balls, leaving them randomly at dog parks. She included notes encouraging pet parents to love on their pups. She made dona-

tions to humane societies, including to a shelter in her hometown of Rapid City, South Dakota, four and half hours away from where she lived at the time in Colorado.

The Rapid City humane shelter also told her about their kennel sponsorship program. With a donation, she could honor Onyx's memory and pay for the cost of one dog's feeding, grooming, and vet appointments. Jennifer thought that would be a wonderful way to honor the dog she loved so much.

She then began checking the Rapid City shelter website daily, looking at the dogs up for adoption. Jennifer was relieved when a dog's picture disappeared, knowing they had found a loving home. But one dog's picture never left the website, Happy, a two-year-old Pitbull.

As the days stretched into months, Jennifer found herself talking to Happy, telling her, "I hope your picture isn't here tomorrow. I hope you get adopted." But every day Happy's picture stayed right there on the website. Still, Jennifer prayed that Happy would find a loving home.

In October of that year, she went home to Rapid City to visit family. She thought it would be fun to stop by the shelter to see the kennel she sponsored and the dog that currently occupied that space.

When she looked inside the kennel, her face blanched, and for a moment, she couldn't speak. The dog staring back at her was Happy. The dog she prayed every day would find a home was right here in Onyx's sponsored kennel. All this time, Jennifer's donation was caring for Happy. "I never in a thousand years thought it would be her," she said. Suddenly, she found herself inquiring about adopting Happy. Even though her inner voice was saying, "What are you doing? You said you weren't going to adopt another dog!"

But there wasn't a force in the universe that could stop her from taking this dog home with her. In Happy's case, the shelter required the adopter to visit Happy for four days and then, following adoption, the shelter would make a home visit.

Puzzled, Jennifer asked why. The answer tore at her heart. For the first year of Happy's life, she had experienced the most

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The Mosby Foundation
PO Box 1978, Staunton, VA 24402
540-885-2260



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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



Spring is finally in the Valley! With the flowers and trees in bloom come fleas, ticks, puppies and kittens! It is our annual reminder to spay/neuter our pets. Our spay/neuter program has grown 15-20% over the past year. We are grateful to our donors who contribute to our spay/neuter fund! We will continue to work to reduce unwanted litters, pet cancers and my nemesis, pyometra!

Spring also sees an increase in lost pets. Please take a moment to register your pet on Petco Love Lost

(the link can be found in this newsletter). Using AI facial recognition technology, this program matches your photo to photos of found animals. 35% of animals are dropped off at a shelter outside of their home area. This makes it much more difficult to find your lost pet. Petco Love Lost expands the search area and is proven to increase reunification. I know it's hard to believe, but this technology can distinguish between cats and dogs that have very similar characteristics. Even my solid grey cat with green eyes was matched from a pool of hundreds!

Microchips are a great way to identify lost pets. However, if the contact information is not updated or if the microchip malfunctions, Petco Love Lost will add extra security for you in helping your pet find its way home. Take advantage of peace of mind knowing that reunification may only be a photograph away.

In support of canines,
David Fitt, President



2024 CALENDAR CASTING CALL

**DEADLINE IS JUNE 28.
VOTING STARTS JULY 1.**

Enter your dog's photograph to be featured in our 2024 calendar!

**Email is:
photocontest@themosbyfoundation.org**



The Happy Coincidence

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horrific form of animal abuse. She had been a bait dog for dogfighting. For this highly illegal activity, bait dogs are used as a kind of punching bag for game dogs.

The bait dog's mouth is usually taped shut or their teeth are broken off so that they don't injure the dominant fight dogs. Bait dogs are either put in a pit or tied to a tree or pole so they can't get away from the fight dogs. Yes, more than one dog is unleashed on the defenseless bait dog with the sole purpose of making the fight dogs more aggressive.

Happy, along with 89 other dogs, were rescued. Happy was the longest resident of the shelter, having resided there for 18 months.

Previous adoptions had resulted in her return because she was termed "aggressive" or because she wasn't good with children. Jennifer looked at Happy's soft brown eyes and was skeptical. "People don't think when they're adopting a dog to take their background into play. A dog who's been in a fighting ring is not going to want children pulling their tail or riding them like a horse."

Undeterred, Jennifer proceeded with the adoption. For the next three days, she visited Happy, and then she put the dog in her car, and headed back to Colorado. On the drive back, Happy's tongue was wagging. She either kept her face in the crook of Jennifer's elbow, or she pawed her for attention.

"It was magical," she said. "It was like we both knew we were meant to be together." But the magic didn't last. When Jennifer would come home from work, Happy would peer out from behind the stove and bark at her. She didn't want Jennifer to come near her.

Being uniquely attuned to dogs, Jennifer understood. Happy wasn't sure the love Jennifer offered was real. What terrible act would Jennifer make her do? It would take months, but eventually, Happy relaxed and understood that Jennifer wasn't going to hurt her. Far from it. She loved her deeply.

But one fear has never left: removing a worn out collar. The minute Jennifer tried to remove the old collar, Happy went berserk, jumping and biting at it. She was desperate to have the collar back on. As soon as Jennifer secured the new collar, Happy immediately settled down.

That's what the dogfighting world does to dogs. The brutality of being forced to "fight" another dog and have no defense, to fear for their very existence digs deep into a dog's psyche, leaving both physical and psychological scars that last a lifetime.

For Happy, wearing a collar was a signal that she was safe in her kennel; she did not have to be bait for another dog. With the collar off, she knew she was literally about to be placed in mortal danger and may not survive.



To this day, six years later, Happy is still paralyzed with fear whenever Jennifer has to replace a collar. She hugs her dog close, tells her she loves her, and then puts the collar on. It's clear the terror will never leave. Happy will carry that scar forever.

Happy also doesn't like men, especially ones that wear hats. Whenever a man, such as a repairman, comes to Jennifer's apartment, she immediately covers Happy with a blanket. Otherwise, she becomes extremely anxious, growling and shaking. The blanket calms her until the man leaves.

With Jennifer's steadfast love, the horrors of the past receded, and Happy finally began to blossom. But one day,

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Gimme Shelter



Samantha Noelle, GA

Roly-poly, bundle of joy is the best way to describe Samantha Noelle. But playtime had been put on hold until we reached out to The Mosby Foundation. Rectal prolapse does not go away on its own and treatment is required to correct the condition. Now that she has fully recovered from surgery, she is back to her silly self, rolling around in the grass, enjoying life. Thanks to generous people like you, Samantha was able to receive the care that she desperately needed. Life is great again!



McKENZIE, VA

The best things come in small packages. McKenzie fits that description. She may look small, but she is a very big part in the life of her forever mom. Many times, getting through difficult challenges were faced together. Learning that McKenzie had a mass that had to come out was one of those hurdles. "I can't thank you enough for helping me help my girl. I'm forever grateful!" Small packages can pack a powerful punch...of love.



RUBY, VA

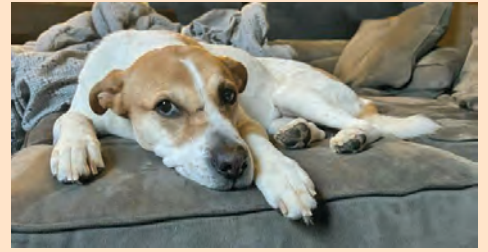
Rubbing Ruby's belly is what it's all about. Well, add sunbathing, being a champion swimmer, chasing squirrels, and playing with her favorite squeaky toys are also at the top of her list of what life is all about. Sadly, these activities were put on hold. A growth was discovered that no longer allowed Ruby to enjoy her fun routines. The entire mass couldn't be removed without causing extreme damage. Immunotherapy vaccines will be used to attack the growth. The vaccines and The Mosby Foundation helping us is the best news we could ask for.



MISSY, NE

One person's trash is another person's treasure. When a heartless human dumped a destitute dog off, it turned out to be our lucky day. The bond was immediate. The spunky Yorkie Terrier became part of our family, and we couldn't imagine life without her. Our love for Missy was endless but finances were limited. Struvite bladder stones were causing her pain and discomfort. We contacted The Mosby Foundation and were relieved to hear that with their assistance, the surgery was made possible. Bladder stones and bad memories are a thing of the past. Days and nights filled with 24/7 love fills our home now and for years to come.

We are helping so many dogs, we do not have space to list them all!



BANKSY, CO

Staying hopeful and positive is great, but sometimes the best news is the absolute best of the worst news. With help from The Mosby Foundation, most of Banksy's squamous cell carcinoma was removed with good margins. We will monitor the area closely and look for more tumors. Banksy is still in recovery and tolerating the cone of shame. The absolute best part of the healing process is giving lots of hugs, kisses, and snuggles.



CHANEL, TN

Ever feel like you and your canine companion are all that's needed? Maybe you feel as though the two of you can make it on your own, so long as you have each other? Chanel and her fur mom are a family with a special bond. Unfortunately, the love between them wasn't enough. Chanel had a growth that had to come out and help needed to step in. "We thank all of you for your wonderful support at The Mosby Foundation. You made a BIG difference and I can't thank you enough. She truly brings me joy."

TAYLOR, VA

This Taylor may not be famous, but to her family, she is a star. To keep this star shining, Taylor needed dental work. Neglecting oral health can lead to serious issues but Taylor's pet parents were diligent and reached out for help. "We can't thank you enough for your support and are deeply grateful for not only the funding that allowed us to proceed with surgery, but for the kind and supportive words over the phone. Mosby is truly a remarkable organization."

The Happy Coincidence

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Jennifer noticed what looked like a pimple under Happy's eye. Dogs do get pimples, but this one morphed into the size of a grape within a month. Immediately, she took Happy to the vet. Her vet assured her it was probably just a lipoma, a fatty tumor. However, it quickly became the size of a walnut.

Jennifer freaked out. She knew this wasn't right. The vet performed a fine needle aspiration, and the results came back abnormal. To have it removed and sent to the lab in Denver was way more money than she had. It was devastating to Jennifer to know she couldn't afford the care her dog needed.

She began researching for financial assistance. "I didn't know what to do. If you're a dog parent and you need help, you just want someone to

please help!" Jennifer had already lost one beloved canine to cancer; she wasn't about to give up on Happy without a fight.

Every day, Jennifer did a body scan of Happy. That's when she found the second tumor on her leg. That meant she would need more money to have both tumors removed.

Friends and family made small donations of money, and she was extremely grateful. Jennifer also started a GoFundMe, but hardly anyone donated. Still, she was grateful for any money that came in. She also applied to numerous organizations for grant money but got little to no response.

Jennifer also emptied what little she had in her checking account to put the money toward Happy's surgery, but it wasn't enough. "I just prayed for someone to help me. "What do you do when you know what's needed to save your dog's life, but you don't have the money?" she asked.

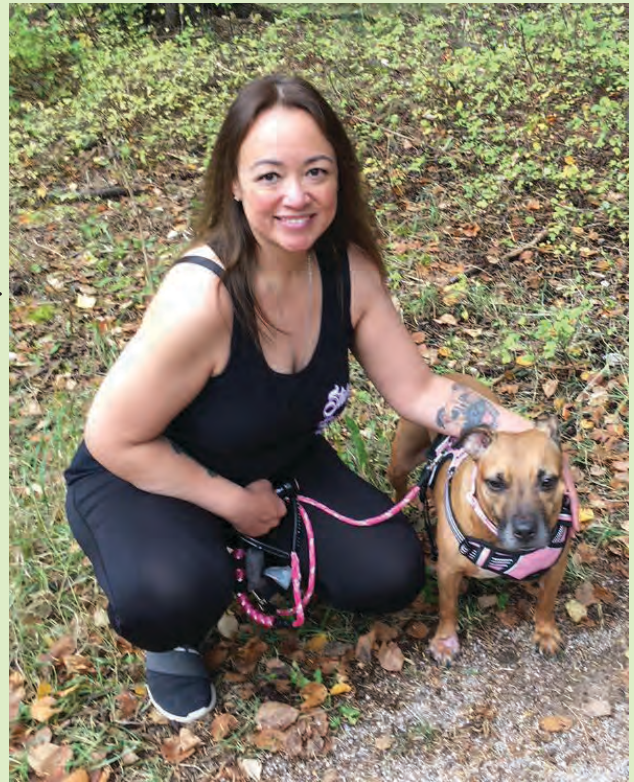
When The Mosby Foundation received Happy's application, we very much wanted to help. For the first year of her life, Happy had only known the worst kind of cruelty. Well-meaning families who had previously adopted her did not understand the gravity of her early life experience.

Jennifer did. Her love for this courageous dog was apparent. We called and told her we were here for Happy. "When the foundation told me I got a grant of money, I hugged Happy and just sobbed." Coincidentally, our grant was the amount of money she needed to get the second tumor removed.

The tumor under Happy's eye was a soft tissue sarcoma. The one on her leg was a mast cell cancer. Because of the location of both tumors, the surgeon could not get the wide margins that are standard. Still, the prognosis was good. Ever vigilant of her dog's health, Jennifer body scans Happy daily just to be on the safe side.

"It was terrifying going through this," she told us. "I didn't want my baby to die. If it hadn't been for The Mosby Foundation's donation and kindness, I'd still be sitting here trying to scrape together the last amount I needed to get Happy's surgery. I just want to give a very heartfelt thank you from both Happy and myself for what you do."

We want to thank Jennifer for daring to love again, and for saving the life of a dog who needs every ounce of love her bountiful heart has to offer. 🐾



Mosby's Mail

Letters may have been edited due to space.



LILY

It is with profound sadness that we share that Lily crossed the rainbow bridge late yesterday afternoon.

She was a brave, fierce, loyal, loving warrior, who overcame cancer. Unfortunately, her body was unable to overcome other challenges that followed. Our final act of kindness for her was to provide a dignified pain-free transition.

We so miss our Baby Girl with her soulful wise eyes. We know we will see her again and for her it will be as if no time has passed, but for us who are left behind, the loss is deep and painful. We know we provided peace for her and eventually that will bring us peace, but for now there is only a huge hole in our lives.

We wanted to thank you for your financial assistance while Lily was undergoing her cancer treatment. God bless you for the work you do. Thanks to Lily's treatment, we were blessed to have her till yesterday, 6 months past her diagnosis.

Peace and blessings,
The Olivier Family
Keith, Christine & Daisy (Lily's litter mate)
Troutville, VA



DUDE

Dude is doing great after his Perianal adenoma surgery! Thank you Petco Love!

Jackson
Anonymous, MN



JACKSON

Just wanted to touch base and let you know that everything went well with Jackson's surgery!!! It took him a couple days to get his full strength back but he's doing well!!

Thank you again for helping, we couldn't have done it without you!!! Here are a couple of photos!!

Forever grateful for helping our sweet boy!!!

Jennifer
Tucson, AZ



TRIXIE

We got Trixie home and she is recovering. The surgery went well with no complications.

Thank you so much! Your donation helped us tremendously.

Corey
Vero Beach, FL



LAYLA

Layla is doing great!! Took the shirt off her yesterday and she is healing fantastically. We are awaiting her Torigen treatments and are extremely hopeful for her. She has been the best dog I have ever had, even my neighbors have told me what a special dog she is.

Thank you so much for your help!

Shetye
Katy, TX

Memorials

IN MEMORY OF DOGS

Harry and Baxter, from Kathy and Jon Mason

Melvis and Tundra, our beloved granddogs, from Larry and Yolanda Beasley

Angus, missed by Angela and Bert Brown, from the Teeters

Dach Forrest Gibson on his 14th birthday (my only grandchild), from Thelma Gibson

Layla, our beautiful fur baby, our little princess, from Teresa Arbogast

Murphy Gray, from Barbara and Thomas Amatucci

All our great dogs, from Bruce Rogers

Bob and Sandy, our canine companions, from Jeff Smith and Mary Janick-Smith

Yeller and Mosby, in loving memory, from Sheila Roeder

My pups, Megan and Emley, from Sharon Angle

All my pets at the Rainbow bridge, from Ann Zimmer

Marley, the best dog in the world, from John and Carol Warren

Daisy Hunter, from Patricia Hunter

Spanky, our beloved dog, from Larry and Yolanda Beasley

Sammi, from Malinda Eavers

Rufus, from Joyce DeWitt

Chenji, from Arthur Hoffman and Martha Eddy

Buster, Molly and Abby, from Michael Ruleman

Marley, a good dog, from Peyton and Carol Coyner

My four babies Emley, Megan, Darcy and Angus, from Sharon Angle

IN MEMORY OF PEOPLE

Andrea Ashmon, animal lover who saved both of her dogs from living on the street from Joan and James Klemic
Paul Shirey, from John Marks, Jr
Martha M. Murray from Dean and Allison Humbert
Edith Von Stumer, from Claire Jacobsen

IN HONOR OF DOGS

Baxter, from Michael Roush

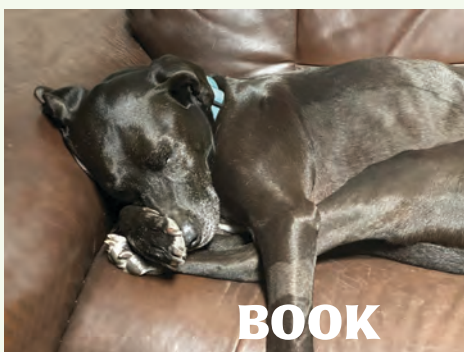
IN HONOR OF PEOPLE

Harry and Baxter from Kathy and Jon Mason

Slick from Joan Eberly

Mosby's Mail

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BOOK

Thank you again for everything. We all truly appreciate it much more than we can say. In this picture, Book is helping me write the next novel!

Kevin
Jacksonville, FL



Thank you!!

Petco provided us with a wonderful, much needed, life-saving grant!

Please help us show our appreciation by shopping at Petco.



The Mosby Foundation
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

"It came to me that every time I lose a dog they take a piece of my heart with them. And every new dog who comes into my life gifts me with a piece of their heart. If I live long enough, all the components of my heart will be dog, and I will become as generous and loving as they are."
 – Unknown

Mosby's Mission

The Mosby Foundation is organized exclusively for charitable purposes, to assist in the care of critically sick, injured, abused and neglected dogs through financial support and public education. We are a 501(C)3 non-profit organization.

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