

Tracks




 Fall 2020

The Tulsa Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Newsletter

We speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.

The Tulsa SPCA's mission is to improve the lives of dogs and cats, and their human companions.

 tulaspca.org
(918) 428-7722

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happy tails

The "Littlest" Duo Brings the Greatest Joy

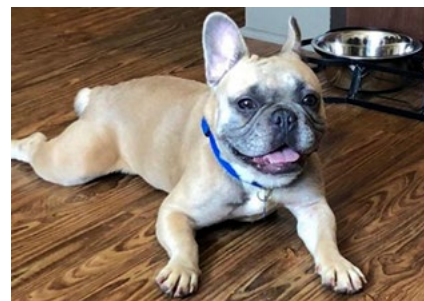


When Little Boy and Minerva, both 13 years of age, arrived at the Tulsa SPCA, they had no idea the happiness they would find with their new family. Both came to the shelter in rough shape: they were dehydrated and had matted hair, ingrown nails and dental decay. Despite their condition, these two had a ton of love to give and were affectionately labeled as the "married couple" by those who spent time with them. These two truly couldn't live without each other, and the Tulsa SPCA was hopeful that the bonded pair would be adopted out together. To help ensure this, a generous donor offered to pay for their adoption fee.

Thankfully, this old married couple was adopted out together by Barbara, who has lovingly renamed Minerva to Itty Bitty Girl. Barbara now spends her days enjoying the company of Itty Bitty Girl and Little Boy. Don't

be fooled though, this "little" couple has brought so much joy to their new home. Barbara describes them as "absolutely delightful," and says she can't imagine her life without them. Little Boy is attached at the hip to his mom and thoroughly enjoys sitting in her lap and showing her endless amounts of affection. Itty Bitty Girl has a lot of spirit and runs the show; she is always sure to let her new mom know when she is ready for mealtime. They are both wonderful companions. We are so overjoyed that this old married couple has found their happily ever after and will receive the love, affection, and care that they deserve!

Benny Found her Jets



Illinois, renamed Benny, was one of the 84 dogs rescued from the Sequoyah County cruelty case involving a puppy mill with deplorable conditions. Her

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life until the point she was rescued consisted of nothing more than her confined area on the property. She had not experienced love, adventure, or comfort. Despite the hardships she faced, she wanted nothing more than to love and be loved in return!

Her new beginning started when she was adopted by Meagan and her family.

Meagan had recently lost her sweet Frenchie, Frankie, after almost 12 years together. When she saw Benny, she knew they were meant to be together. Benny has completely stolen her heart and filled her life with love and joy. She has even mastered the stairs and perfected happy butt wiggles! Benny's life now consists of playtime, lots of

walks, watching TV, and exploring downtown Tulsa with her family. Benny is finally getting to experience how beautiful life can be outside the puppy mill — she even has her own Instagram (@beignetbenny_tulsa). As her Instagram bio states, Benny has finally found her Jets! We are so excited for Benny and her family.



Save the date for this year's Bingo Bash! Our fiesta themed event will be held on **December 5th from 6PM-10PM** and include a silent auction as well as several exciting rounds of bingo. To ensure the health and safety of all who participate, Bingo Bash will be a virtual experience. Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available at www.tulsaspc.org/bingo-bash. All proceeds benefit the Tulsa SPCA to provide safe, transitional shelter and medical care to homeless animals in Tulsa.

How the CARES Act of 2020 Impacts Charitable Giving

The CARES Act of 2020 made important changes that you should be aware of as you plan your philanthropic goals for 2020.

Required Minimum Distribution [RMD]

The CARES Act suspended the mandate for payouts known as required minimum distributions for the 2020 tax year. Those who typically give directly to us through their RMD's each year can still do so by reaching out to us at giving@tulsaspc.org or (918) 428-7722, ext. 1037.

Charitable Contribution Deductions

Individual taxpayers that do not itemize their deductions can take a charitable deduction of up to \$300 per individual.

For those who itemize their deductions, the CARES Act allows for cash contributions in 2020 to be up to 100 percent of your AGI.

Qualified Charitable Distributions [QCD]

A Qualified Charitable Distribution will count toward satisfying your required minimum distribution, and neither you nor the charity will have to pay income taxes on the distribution. Please contact us for information you can share directly with your financial advisor to complete this gift.

As always, we recommend consulting your financial advisor when making decisions surrounding your charitable giving plans.

For now, these provisions are only in place for 2020 so if you have any questions, please reach out to us at giving@tulsaspc.org or (918) 428-7722, ext. 1037.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Devon Diaz

Devon Diaz has a passion for helping animals, and COVID-19 has not stopped him from sharing that love with the dogs at the Tulsa SPCA. Businessman by day, Devon spends his free time at the Tulsa SPCA getting dogs squeaky clean so they can be cuddle-ready for their new forever families.

Q: Tell us a little bit about yourself and any pets you have at home.

I am originally from California and have lived in Tulsa for about 5 years now. I have an engineering background and I'm currently a partner in a publicly-traded investment and holding company. The future is looking really great.

I have an amazing pitt/boxer named Zoey. My business partner found Zoey wandering the streets begging for food. He asked me if I could take her to the Tulsa SPCA to have her scanned to see if she belonged to anyone or if anyone reported her missing. Because it was the beginning of the COVID-19 shutdown, the Tulsa SPCA was closed for a couple of weeks, and during that time I just fell in love with Zoey. She is so darn cute, full of energy and incredibly smart and respectful, so how could I not? She is the dog everyone dreams of having. Unfortunately, and fortunately, once we were able to scan her, there was no chip and well...I had no other choice than to make her part of my family!

Q: What made you want to become a volunteer at the Tulsa SPCA?

About a year ago I found myself with extra time on my hands and knew I needed to do some volunteer work that was meaningful to me and to the organization I wanted to help. Because I love animals and I have rescued a few dogs in my



“How can one not smile and feel happy when surrounded by the love of so many animals?”

lifetime, I felt the best way to utilize my time was to help at the Tulsa SPCA. I wasn't wrong. Helping out where and when I can is incredibly fulfilling to me, and I really enjoy being around all of the staff and volunteers. Everyone I have met has just been so helpful, friendly and basically amazing.

Q: What do you like most about volunteering with the Tulsa SPCA?

How can one not smile and feel happy when surrounded by the love of so many animals that go crazy for your attention? It is such an amazing feeling to be able to help in any way I can knowing that the animals need as much help and attention we can give them until they find their final home.

Q: How has COVID-19 changed volunteer work at the Tulsa SPCA and how have you overcome those challenges?

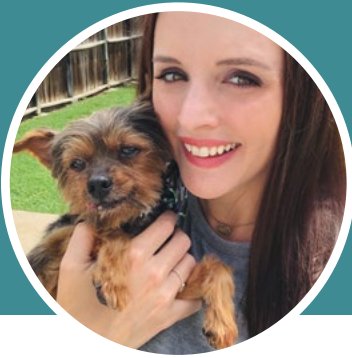
All of the new regulations have put tremendous strain on the existing resources of the Tulsa SPCA in order to provide the best service they can. That is where the volunteers have really stepped up. Being asked to do tasks they would not have normally been asked to do in the past has shown how amazing the volunteers and foster families really are. I am very excited to be able to put in a few hours a week, because I am surrounded by so much enthusiasm from everyone who is helping out. It is very inspiring.

Q: Why would you encourage others to get involved/be a volunteer for the Tulsa SPCA?

I get so passionate about helping the animals that whenever I speak about it, I just want people to see and feel my passion. I feel I have at least made them aware of the Tulsa SPCA and the mission it serves, and hopefully they will consider adopting an animal from the Tulsa SPCA or helping out in the future.

Q: Is there any special memory you've had volunteering at the shelter with any of the animals?

On one of my first days as a volunteer, the shelter received six Yorkies that were pulled from a hoarder. They were matted, smelled terrible, and were scared out of their minds. The Tulsa SPCA Volunteer Manager asked if I would be so kind as to give them baths. It was such an amazing experience to help these dogs begin their journey to finding a new home. From that point forward, (and until the COVID-19 restrictions), I would spend my volunteer time giving the dogs a bath because they should look their best when trying to find a home, and everyone loves to pet a clean, fluffy dog.



New Lease on Life!

78 dogs rescued from a Sequoyah County puppy mill find safe, loving homes.

Photo: Nebraska at his forever home

In mid-July the Tulsa SPCA was asked to assist with an animal cruelty and neglect case in Sequoyah County involving a puppy mill. In partnership with the Oklahoma Alliance for Animals, we rescued 84 dogs from living conditions beyond anyone's imagination.

These dogs were used to breed and breed quickly in order for their owners to make money. They were living in cages and tote bags, unable to move or stretch and soaked and caked in urine and feces. Malnourished and emaciated, some of these dogs were unrecognizable as they were so matted it was hard to tell if they were living creatures or simply balls of dirty, crusty hair. Nightmarish was the word that came to mind for those involved in the rescue efforts.

The Tulsa SPCA took in 78 of the 84 dogs to assess and treat both medically and behaviorally and to prepare for adoption. It wasn't an easy task. Mindy Tiner, the Tulsa SPCA Executive Director said, "The challenge with these dogs, in addition to the sheer number who came in at one time, was the amount of medical and emotional care they needed. Where normally we might have a few intakes a month who have severe dental disease and other extraordinary needs, almost all of these dogs did."

The Tulsa SPCA staff got to work. All of the 78 dogs received the treatment we normally provide — vaccinations, heartworm testing and preventative, spay/neuter surgery, deworming, flea and tick preventatives and microchipping. The more serious cases, as Tiner mentions above, had tooth extractions, tumor removals,

eye removals, ear and skin infection treatments, nail trims and severe mats removed. And in addition to the physical needs of these dogs, Tulsa SPCA staff members provided emotional support, as well.

"These dogs had almost no socialization skills which required a lot of effort and patience on our part," Tiner said. "They had lived their whole lives in small cages and most had never stepped foot on grass. Many simply turned in small circles when placed on the grass for the first time because they didn't realize they could move any farther. So gaining their trust was also part of the rehabilitation process."

The Sequoyah County case was of huge interest to the general public and almost immediately, the Tulsa SPCA was inundated with requests to foster



China before (left) and after (below) being rescued



and adopt. Placing the dogs, named after U.S. states and countries around the world, into foster homes was a huge undertaking as all foster and adoptive families have to be approved. At the same time, the shelter's staff was fielding offers of help from rescue groups around the country.

"It was important the dogs be placed with families who provided the right fit for their situation," Tiner said. Of the 78 dogs, 36 went to foster homes, while the remainder were adopted straight from the shelter. All 78 have now been adopted and are living in safe, happy homes with their forever families.

Intaking dogs and cats always has a price. Costs for food, shelter, microchips, spay/neuter surgeries and preventative medicine stack up under normal circumstances. The Sequoyah County cruelty case was not a normal situation. In just 24 hours, the Tulsa SPCA brought to its shelter 78 dogs who needed immediate attention. Add to that, a global pandemic which closed all incoming revenue for eight weeks and the Tulsa SPCA knew it would need the public's help to offset costs to assist these dogs. The public came through in many ways including donations of money and supplies.

Even with the generosity shown during that critical time, the Tulsa SPCA still has work to do to make up for the revenue lost in 2020. If you would like to make a one-time donation or sign up as a Faithful Friend with a monthly donation, visit our website at tulsaspca.org/donate.

Tiner said, "Knowing the Sequoyah County dogs have been rescued from the filth and horror they'd known their whole lives and that they now have a chance to understand love and what it means to truly live in a home with humans who show them kindness is what makes this often difficult and heartbreaking work worth it."



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Choosing an electronic version not only saves trees, but it also saves the Tulsa SPCA money on printing and postage. If you would like to help us go green, send an email to giving@tulsaspc.org and provide your name and email address. Thank you for your support of the Tulsa SPCA!

Furever Home!

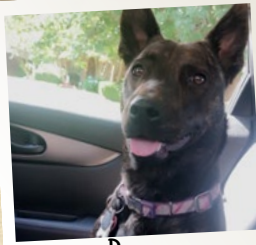
The Tulsa SPCA Brings Together Families



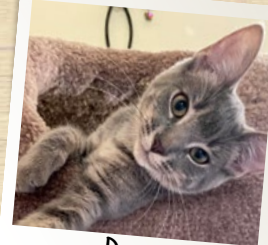
Bob



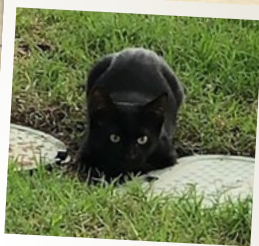
Boris & Moon



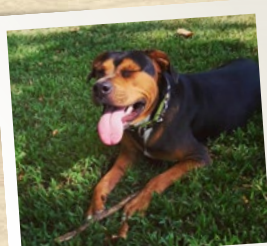
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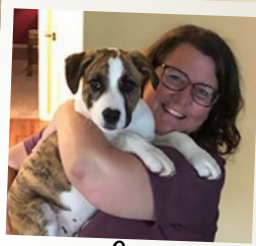
Dionne



Ellie



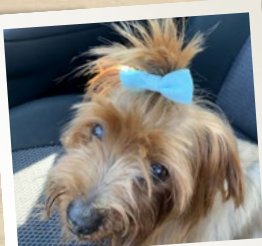
Emma



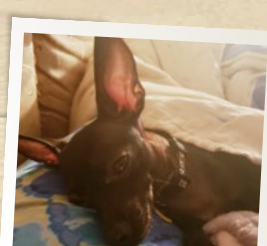
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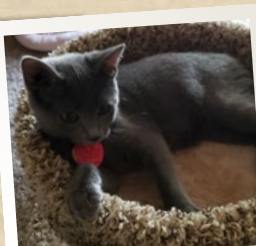
Happy & DoriDori



Ireland



Irene



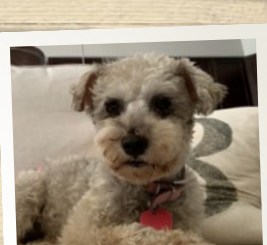
Kiri



Marleigh



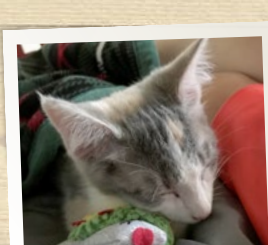
Pearl



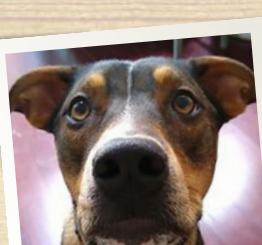
Schatzi



Tallulah



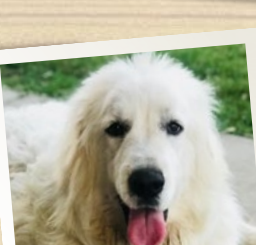
Thumper



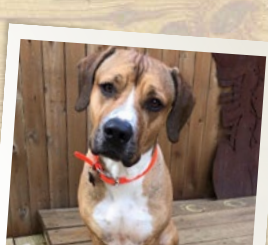
Tony Bark



Utah



Winston



Zeke



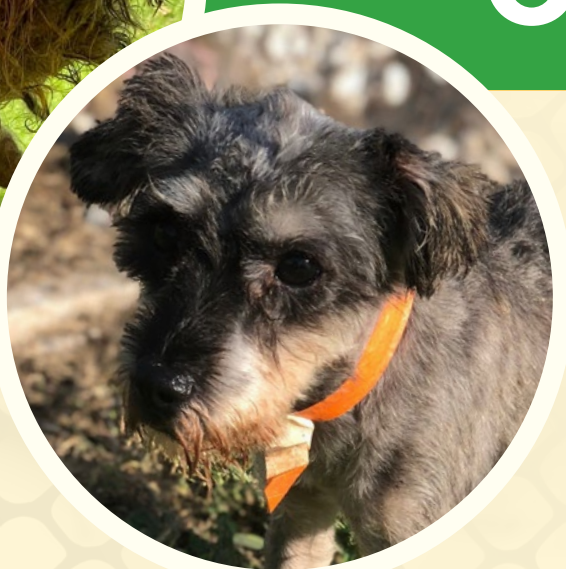
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NEW LEASE ON LIFE!



China before and
after rescue



READ INSIDE:

The Tulsa SPCA
found homes for
78 dogs rescued
from a cruelty
case in Sequoyah
County.