

# PAWSITIVE MATCH RESCUE

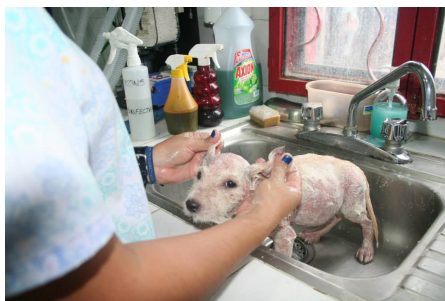
## COZUMEL HUMANE SOCIETY

Tuesday morning I arrived in a semi poor section of Cozumel where the clinic is located. Although I have to say poor is relevant to what you know- there are far worse places to be. The clinic is colorfully done up in a grove of trees and the rooms are small as the clinic is for treatments and operations but the animals are kept outdoors in kennels and enclosures. The



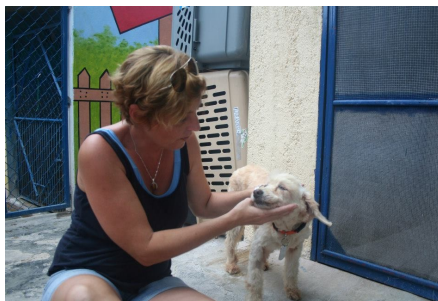
clinic boasts two vets and a tech, office manager as well as many people that volunteer. It is a very busy place! After meeting everyone I roamed the enclosures trying to spend time with every animal there. It's hard to do. It's not an overcrowded place but there are a lot of animals that want petting to be sure.

Adult cats have their enclosure and kittens have another. Dogs are divided by age and temperament and during the day many cycle out of the kennels to roam in the common area for a break. Every dog gets walked every day by the help of local volunteers, a lot of them being younger children. Silva was one such remarkable young lady who routinely comes. She told me she started a couple of months ago when her mother took her to the clinic to see if they could find her dog who someone stole from her yard. Unfortunately she's never found her



but she's still there and she teaches the dogs basic commands and uses the clinic's only flight of stairs to teach them to climb as most homes in Cozumel only have one floor. If your Cozumel foster can sit, stay and walk on a leash, chances are Silva has had a hand in it.

Although the Humane Society does take in many animals and tries their best to re-home them their first mandate is to educate animal owners and animal control via neuter and spaying. Every Wednesday is busy with local volunteers going out into the neighbourhoods and



capturing roaming animals or convincing local pet owners to let their pets be taken in to be altered. The Wednesday I was there over 20 cats were waiting to be prepped for their operations. I was a bit surprised at the number but I am told that this is actually lower than usual, 30-50 cats can be waiting in the clinic for most Wednesdays. It's a well-oiled machine this business. I floated from the prep area where cats were cleaned, shaved, and put under (I did help a wee bit but hopefully I wasn't too much of a hindrance) I also

stood in the very small OR watching the two vets work in tandem on two tables while the vet tech helped with neutering. From there the animals are transferred to recovery where they are given vaccines, medications for ear mites, monitored and marked so they are identifiable and not making the same trip twice =) After they wake they are taken to a volunteer's home to recover for the night and then returned

from where they came.

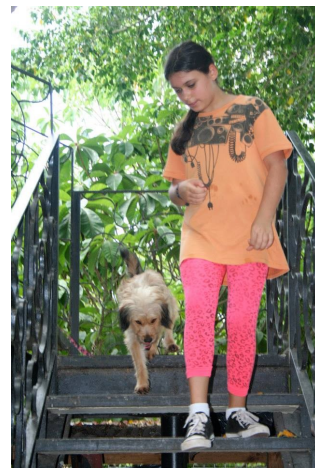
It is amazing how many animals can be looked after in such a small place but again- all the caring people know their jobs and make it look easy- but they do work endlessly. Daily there are heartbreaking stories to come to the clinic.

Dogs left abandoned in the front (where the staff have made it accessible at night for such things). Mange puppies that have no fur and covered in home remedies more damaging than the problem, starvation, malnutrition, abuse and neglect are standards. The thing of it is, although these are horrific things to see and know, I also know that these dogs are the lucky ones. They have found their way

to the Clinic and the passionate, caring staff. With the network of foundations and all the people like us working together these dogs and cats will find their home. I am very grateful for being able to go on behalf of our foundation. I am extremely thankful for the experience and all the dedicated people I

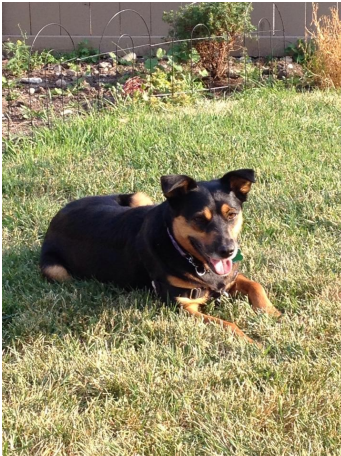
have met on this journey. I wouldn't hesitate to do it all again or recommend it to anyone who is thinking of doing it.

~By Jennifer Breen

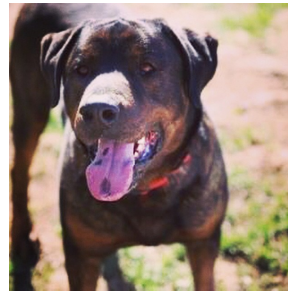


## ADOPTED IN AUGUST

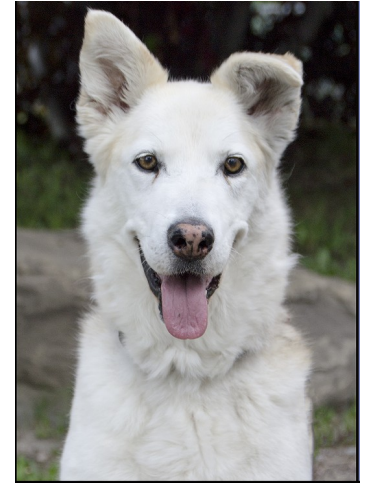
Cassie  
Larry  
Ollie  
Benji  
Peeta  
Maverick  
Penny  
Felix  
Nona  
Primrose



Rico  
Bobox  
Maya  
Finn  
Zeke  
Lexi  
Chloe  
Flynn  
Tigre  
Ruby



Daisy  
Poli  
Simon,  
Sam  
Bailey  
Booboo  
Sangay  
Theodore



## INTERVIEW WITH A VOLUNTEER—ANGELA BRICKER

I began volunteering for Pawsitive Match in January 2013 after I adopted my own dog - a crazy Catahoula pup that was rescued from the swamps of Mississippi while the rest of his litter unfortunately passed on from parvo. He's such a smart, sweet boy and I wanted to help more dogs like him find their forever homes. I began volunteering at Cambrian and a few months later started fostering. Both Cambrian and



fostering are so incredibly rewarding and I love meeting all the new dogs that come in. Later on that year the adoptions team was looking for help so I started helping process adoptions applications as well and loved seeing the dogs off to their new families. Seeing the state of some of the dogs we take in really makes you question humanity, but our amazing adopters restore my faith every single time. I was asked to join the board in November 2013 and became the Adoptions Director. It's such a privilege to be involved with this rescue, and I've also been lucky enough to visit one of our partner shelters in Cabo where I

saw the difference they have made in their community and what it means to them when we bring up our mexi-mutts so that they too can rescue more dogs. I've seen the resilience that dogs have first hand from the fosters I've had and it makes the countless hours and late nights of catching up on emails so worth it. Watching a dog go from a terrified little thing who is afraid of having you get too close, to seeing that same dog bursting with excitement when you walk through the door after work is a feeling you can't describe. I count myself very lucky to have met so many dedicated people who share my passion for rescue dogs and have made some great friends along the way.

## SEPTEMBER DOG OF THE MONTH—ARTSY

Artsy is about 2 years old and has been friendly with everyone he's met so far. He's doing well with the other dogs in his foster home and, after great initial interest, is now accepting the cat. Marty is very affectionate and inclined to get excited when getting attention. He settles calmly on the couch when the house quiets down in the evening and is a lovely companion. Marty has tons of energy

and would like a home which will provide him with an outlet for said energy. Due to his tendency to become somewhat overstimulated, small children may be at risk of being knocked over (and then licked). Marty is on his way to being housetrained and crate trained. He does tend to "sing" when his foster mom is away from the house so a single family dwelling would be appropriate for him. Marty has some

issues which are minor and training will sort him out in short order, I think. He's eager to please and food motivated - the perfect combination for training!





## PAWSITIVE MATCH PAINT NITE

Join us October 6 at 6pm for a couple hours of drinks and painting!

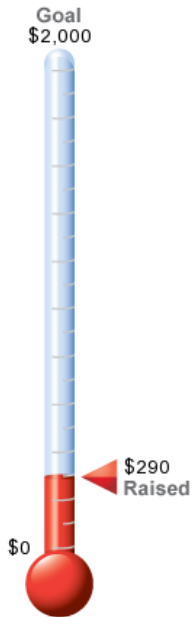
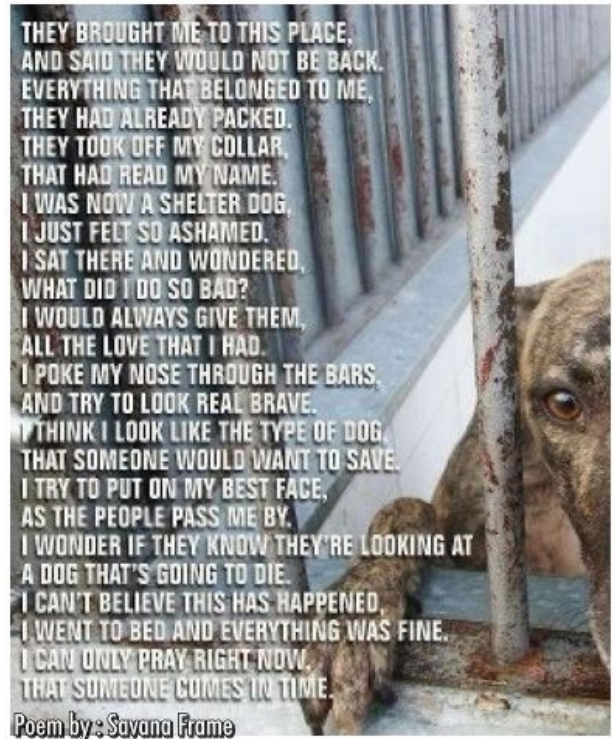
[Paint Nite Calgary](#) events are great for artists and non-artists alike and are always a ton of fun, regardless of your artistic ability. At the end of the night, you get to bring your masterpiece home to display.

Proceeds from this event will go to [Pawsitive Match Rescue Foundation](#). There are a limited number of tickets so make sure to purchase yours before they sell out!

Tickets and further information are available [here](#).

“Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them.”

-Dalai Lama



## 5 REASONS WHY WE LOVE OUR FURRY IMMIGRANTS

*“Why are you guys bringing dogs from another country when we already have a problem with homeless dogs here?”*

If we had a nickel for every time we were asked that question, we'd be able to rescue every dog needing a home! It is, however a fair question, and one that we are happy to answer.

- 1) A life is a life and we are proud to save them all! Whether we're able to save a dog from an Alberta reserve, a neglectful home in Mexico or an overcrowded shelter in LA, we are happy to simply give a needy dog the opportunity to have a happy life. We don't believe compassion should be limited by borders.
- 2) With the increased awareness of the fact that almost any desired dog is available as a rescue, people *want* to rescue their choice of a pet! There is, however, a smaller amount of chihuahuas, shihtzus and terriers available in Canada, and an abundance being killed in Mexico and California on a daily basis.
- 3) The majority of dogs being euthanized in LA and Mexico are highly adoptable dogs that just aren't

as adoptable in their home country as they are in Canada.

- 4) People are often limited in the size/ breed of dog they're able to have due to their living circumstance. Many people (especially in a large city such as Calgary) want a dog but are only able to have small dogs, which are generally harder to find on a local reserve.
- 5) If you've never personally met a "mexi-mutt", you're missing out! They are so thankful to have someone treat them with respect and love, and give it back tenfold!

The only way to solve the overpopulation of dogs whether here, in Mexico, LA or beyond is through education and spay and neuter programs. We are proudly partnered with several agencies that focus on education and/or spay/neuter and assist whenever we can.

And while we love the dogs we welcome into Canada, we are still committed to and love our resident dogs as well! 40% of our intakes are local dogs, whether from spay and neuter clinics, owner surrenders, or transfers from other local rescues.

Our goal for 2014 is to achieve \$2000 in monthly donations.

Your donation goes directly to the rescue and care of our dogs, and you will receive a tax receipt!

Even something as "little" as \$5 or \$10 a month adds up quickly when multiplied by the number of supporters PMRF is fortunate to have!

You can subscribe to donate monthly through our [website](#).



Puppy Classes, Group Classes  
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Fears, Rescue, Mentorship

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E: [info@dogsforchange.com](mailto:info@dogsforchange.com)  
W: [www.dogsforchange.com](http://www.dogsforchange.com)

## My Perfect Rescue Dog

If you are fostering or have recently adopted a rescue dog or puppy with some behavioural challenges, you may be thinking to yourself “awesome, just what I want to read about – a dog trainer and her perfect rescue dog walking in perfect heel position to the dog park, where the dog is let off leash to frolic amongst his doggy friends all while wowing the off-leash dog park goers with his faster- than-the -speed -of -light -recall”. Now before you hit “delete”, please just keep reading for a moment...

For many rescue dogs, this is an unattainable **IDEAL**.

For me, it was only when I was able to embrace this and to let go of the “American Dream” of urban dog ownership and focused on training the dog in front of me, that I came to realize that my own rescue dog, Amos Mouse, was in fact perfect.

### A Dog Named Mouse

I adopted Amos Mouse from the Bow Valley SPCA in May of 2011. He was one of their long term shelter residents. He had been taken into their care at 6 months of age and was adopted out to me at approximately 2 years of age. Needless to say, Amos Mouse came with some serious behavioural challenges including: separation anxiety; impulsivity (0 to 60 in a split second); reactivity; and zero social skills, all exacerbated by 1.5 years’ worth of shelter stress and pent up energy and frustration.

### What I Did

In the first month or so that I had Amos Mouse, I took things **WAY TOO FAST**. I wanted Amos Mouse to have a dog friend or two, so I set up introductions with him and other dogs right out of the start gate. I wanted Amos Mouse to be more comfortable in the city, so I brought him out to training classes with me. I wanted to teach Amos Mouse some basic skills, so we started some training exercises.

What is wrong with this picture? I neglected to look at Amos Mouse and what his **NEEDS** were. Everything that we did was based on me and what I wanted for him and to be honest, I did more damage than good in that first month of our life together. The worst part was that with each activity that we tried my heart hardened towards Amos Mouse and feelings of disappointment and even resentment started set in.

### What I Learned

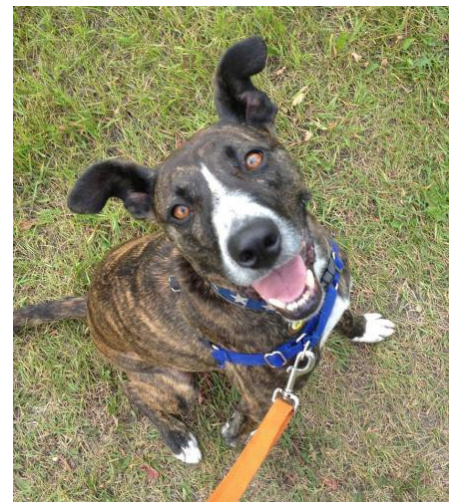
It took a while but eventually I learned that what Amos Mouse really needed was to move forward **SLOWLY**. Long walks were replaced with a single 15 to 20 minute walk on the same route. We did this for a **FULL YEAR** during off – peak times and then started to slowly expand his world from there. We limited training to one or two 2 minute sessions in a day. We introduced food foraging games and stress release and sensory stimulation exercises. We did a 5 month round of medication to help work thru his separation anxiety in combination with behaviour modification. We started to play together and focused on building our relationship, communication and trust. We started working on building appropriate communication and social skills. We waited a full year to take our first training class together. We waited another full year to introduce him to play friends. When we worked at his pace, we always met with success..

### What Things Look Like Today

Today, nearly 3.5 years later, things look very different than they did in 2011. I can come and go from my house freely without firing Amos Mouse’s panic switches. Amos Mouse has a group of doggie friends and with proper introductions, can actually play. This is a drastic change from the dog who used to stand on top of other dogs and muzzle punch them in attempts to play. No, we do not go to the dog park! We can walk within 6 feet of another dog without Amos Mouse having an epic meltdown. This is a far cry from the 100 foot threshold that we started with. I can drive places with him without him **SCREAMING** for the entire time. He still struggles with impulsivity, transitions and his emotions, but that is who he is, and I accept that. To me he is perfect. He has brought so much joy to my life and taught me to be patient, kind and understanding. He has increased my frustration tolerance. He has taught me the value of working with complex dogs at a snail’s pace. He has humbled me as a person and as a trainer and I wouldn’t have things any other way.

Cat Harbord

Founder/Certified Dog Trainer, ImPAWSible Possible



## HOW YOU CAN HELP!

- **Foster!** Without foster homes, we cannot save dogs. Fostering is an incredibly rewarding experience, and all supplies and expenses are covered by Pawsitive Match.
- **Donate!** (monthly or one time donations) Any amount helps to cover the soaring costs of rescuing.
- **Volunteer!** We are always looking for volunteers to join our team and have many different positions, each with varying time requirements.
- **Transport!** Let us know when/where you're going on vacation, you may be able to escort dogs back and save their lives!
- Consider Pawsitive Match as a memorial gift in memory of someone, or as a gift in honour of someone and a special event in their lives (ie. Birthday, graduation)
- Donate supplies to our holding facility (bleach, paper towels, etc. Please contact [pawsitivecambrian@gmail.com](mailto:pawsitivecambrian@gmail.com) for the current needs)

Thank you so much for your support. Without you, we cannot continue saving the lives of our furry friends.

## HAPPY TAILS—ADORA

Everything is going beautifully with Adora and we absolutely love her. I think each day she is feeling more and more at home and learning the routines of the house. She has such a good temperament and is so gentle and sweet. We are very blessed to have her in our lives. I can't imagine why she wasn't snapped up right away. She is a bit older and that's great for us, often the older dogs are so well-behaved and more our speed, though she still has a ton of energy. We did change her name a bit, to Dorie, but it's close to her original name, so she picked it up right away.

One of the things I like to do is give Dorie a bowl of homemade bone broth every day with her meal. She just loves this. About 3 times I had fed her without adding the broth and each time, after she ate, she would gently whine to let me know something was missing. I'm pretty good at speaking dog so I gave her some broth and all was well after that. We bought her a new dog bed called the

"double donut". We had lots of big dog beds around from our other dogs (now in heaven) but wanted her to have her own. We noticed that she liked to sleep in a little circle so got her a bed with edges, just like a donut. She really loves it and is so good about going to bed at night. Quite often, she will also go for a nap during the day. In the morning, she gets her belly rubbed and we make sure that she has a blanket over her at night, since we like to sleep with the temperature a bit on the cool side (hot flashes, you know). A big bonus is that she sleeps in longer than we do. Gotta love that.

We started playing hide and seek and she really enjoys that. I've never played it before but she picked it up on the first time. We hang out a lot together and I'll sit and read and she's usually right beside me. She is so very smart and knows a bunch of tricks and commands. I taught her to open the dog gate from the kitchen to the dining room. She learned it in about 2 tries. We also have a dog door and she



learned that just as quickly, but it's only open when we are home and when the weather is good. I also have a small table light that goes on by touch, and she turns it on and off. She is amazing.

What We learned the most from this process is that when you adopt a dog, it takes them a while to figure things out and it's best not to overreact if your new dog does something different than your other dogs did. Give them a chance and be patient. They are doing their best, and it's so worth it in the end.

(edited for length—full story available [here](#))

## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH—AMANDA WLASIUK

I started volunteering in 2009 with PMRF. I started doing foster application processing and that grew quickly into foster coordination. I love working with people and helping much needed dogs at the same time. I would take in several foster dogs at a time, just to take the load off. A few years after that, and the birth of my second child, I could no longer commit the time to coordinate. I then started volunteering in a smaller capacity, which every rescue needs. Fostering was slowed down, but I would



always come forward when possible to help with the tougher dogs. With 113 PMRF dogs fostered, two landed a spot in my heart and could not leave. Yes, it is hard to say goodbye to them, but the reward of saving another, reminds you it is 110% worth it!

From PMRF : Thank you Amanda for spearheading the calendar campaign each year!