

Champ's *CHANCE*

Local non-profit rescue save countless furry lives



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*Puppies Starski & Hutch out on Landis
for popular event, Puppy for a Day*

A JOURNEY THROUGH HARDSHIPS



Polly the happy puppy

PUPPY LOVE

It's early on a Sunday morning and you can hear the excited barks of dogs filling the air. Volunteers are taking dogs on walks, others are cleaning the now empty kennels, people are on puppy duty, visitors are arriving for potential fostering or adoptions or just to take a puppy for a day. There are over 100 dogs in the rescue, with roughly 40 dogs on site.

Weekends are the busiest for Champ's Chance, a local non-profit animal rescue (not to be confused with an animal shelter which are typically government funded). Run out of Quincy, Florida, the rescue is completely volunteer run with over 50 volunteers that will come out to this rural town about 30 minutes outside of the capital to help around the grounds.

Organizations will come out and bring anywhere between 3 to 20 people that are ready to help out. The majority of the groups come from Florida State University including, but not limited to, FSU animal society, Alpha Phi Omega, the pre-vet club, and Circle K.

Founder, Alicia Bopp, has dedicated the past year to the rescue. After previously working with Rest Your Paws Animal Rescue, Bopp left due to the harsh living conditions and neglect the dogs had to constantly endure. Bopp's profound love for these dogs pushed her to open a rescue of her own where she could ensure any and all dogs that came her way would be properly cared for and looked after. A little over a year ago today, Champ's Chance was founded on October 1, 2022.

"Champ was my first baby that passed and made me start the rescue and then Chance was the first one that I was able to save after the rescue." Bopp shares. "Champ was 2 pounds from Rest your Paws, he was sick. He fought pneumonia and parvo; he fought for a long time before he passed. There was another little puppy up at Rest your Paws and

I took her home because she was sick and going to die. She is amazing and is with a law enforcement family in Havana. She was Chance."

Running the entire rescue out of her own home, Bopp truly has dedicated her every waking moment to the cause. Opening Champ's Chance was not initially intended, but after 35 dogs were dropped off at Bopp's front door, the rescue officially opened. After a strenuous start, the rescue just passed the one-year anniversary and the changes implemented in the rescue are astounding.

There are currently 30 kennels plus dogs living inside the house. Every kennel has a dog bed, food, water, and an attached roof to provide cover from the weather. Every weekend there is an event that the rescue will attend to both advocate for the rescue and show off the dogs ready for their fur-ever home.



Bopp holding first rescue dog, Champ

ROUGH STARTS

Dogs are always circulating the rescue; coming in and out, these dogs have a variety of tear-wrenching backstories and many differing health conditions. Animal control and animal shelters in the area often go to Champ's Chance when they receive calls from people with dogs in need of help. There have been times where 10 puppies were dropped off in the course of an afternoon carrying a range of health conditions. Rarely ever do the puppies arrive without needing medical attention of some sort.

"Many of our dogs come from the woods or rural animal control centers," says Alyssa Nunez, a lead volunteer in the internal team at Champ's Chance since June of 2023.



Thommy and Ada in their onesies

Nunez runs the social media for the rescue along with setting up meet and greets for potential adoptions or fosters.



Fancy the mamma

"The worst case I have seen were 2 puppies that came to us with mange (a skin disease caused by parasitic mites), their names are now Thommy and Ada. They had absolutely no hair/fur and were completely covered in scabs from all the itching."

After only 2 weeks at the rescue, Thommy and Ada have made strides in their health. They have even started to grow some fur with scabs that are almost completely healed. There are many dogs that have also overcome their rough beginnings. Tucker was hit by a car and now cannot walk on one of his legs, resulting in a hobbling walk. Ranger was living in the woods near the rescue until he was finally caught, but was completely terrified of people. Daisy was surrendered to the rescue malnourished - nothing but skin and bones.

THE MISFITS

When someone decides to take on the big responsibility of owning a dog, the first dog that comes to mind to adopt is a sweet little puppy. While any dog getting adopted is always a great thing, this constantly leaves other pups out of the mix, the dogs that really need homes the most.

Only wanting to adopt puppies tends to leave out any of the dogs that look different, whether they have scars from their rough life, or had a litter of puppies themselves and are still bearing the effects of the strenuous task.

These dogs have likely been at the respective rescue the longest and have either never been in the comforts of a home, or even worse yet, they have, and due to whatever circumstance, had to leave.

PUPPY FOR A DAY

One of the most popular events the rescue will run is called Puppy-for-a-Day. This enables everyone the opportunity to watch one of the many dogs for part of the day. I myself participated and took two adorable puppies, Starski and Hutch, for the day. These two black long-haired puppies have the most stunning eyes, one dark brown and the other a striking light blue. Their eyes complimented each other, Starski's right eye was blue and Hutch's left eye was blue.

We picked up the puppies after our classes and spoiled them rotten. We bought treats, a good bed, and FSU bandanas. They went on an adventure to Florida State's campus where they met a plethora of excited students.

On the campus's main patch



FSU student cuddling Hutch

of green, Landis, we sat with the puppies and let them roam around and introduce themselves to anyone that passed (which was a lot of people). Both puppies have been adopted since this event, which is the case for many of the dogs that are involved in this easy, yet effective event.



It is quite evident how much Champ's Chance has given back to the community and the helpless puppies constantly found in it. With fundraisers and events like Puppy-for-a-Day, the rescue is determined to stay afloat and continue to help as many dogs as possible. By taking in and caring for countless dogs, Champ's Chance has brought much joy into the lives of the many people that have either fostered or adopted a dog from the rescue. While owning a dog may not always be possible, volunteering or donating to your local dog rescue helps more than anyone realizes!

"The rescue continues to grow more and more in order to help save more pup's lives!" -Nunez



Siegfried posing perfectly for the camera