

Phoenix Animal Rescue Backgrounder



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Phoenix Animal Rescue is a nonprofit, no-kill animal rescue group established in 2003 and located in Levy County, Fla. The organization's mission is to rescue, provide sanctuary, and ultimately rehome abandoned, stray and neglected animals from the Levy County area.

PHOENIX THE DOG

Phoenix Animal Rescue is named after Phoenix, a puppy who was stolen from her backyard and sold to "Bone," a dog fighter in Gainesville, Fla. Phoenix's owner was persistent in searching for her, and she was returned home several months later. After months of substantial neglect and abuse, Phoenix was left withdrawn and anxious. Phoenix's owner hired a dog trainer, Michelle Dunlap, who was known for her expertise in rehabilitating abused and neglected dogs. After 18 months of extensive training, Phoenix was awarded her AKC Canine Good Citizen title. Phoenix became a breed ambassador, participating in numerous community events to help increase visibility of the dog-fighting issue. Dunlap, who is also the founder of PAR, honored Phoenix by naming her rescue group Phoenix Animal Rescue. Phoenix has since passed away, but her legacy lives on through the volunteers at PAR, who continue to help dogs like Phoenix learn how to trust people again.

QUALITY CARE

The primary focus at PAR is to make sure animals get the love and attention they deserve, including any necessary medical treatment.

Many of the dogs at PAR are pit bulls, or pit bull mixes, that are just waiting for people to give them a chance to prove that they really are good dogs; they've just had bad owners.

When a dog comes in feeling scared, alone and most likely ill, PAR welcomes him in and nurtures him back to health. No matter how long it takes to find a good home, PAR is committed to the care and enrichment of each and every pet.

THE SOLUTION

PAR is committed to being part of the solution for pet-overpopulation and euthanasia. In 2013, PAR, and partnering rescue groups, worked with the staff at Levy County Animal Services to decrease euthanasia at the shelter by 67 percent. PAR plans to continue its success into 2014, reducing intake and further reducing euthanasia at Levy County Animal Services.

FOSTER PROGRAM

All of the animals at PAR are housed in foster homes, where they are provided with the utmost love and affection, as well as any medical attention necessary to ensure they are in good health before finding their forever homes. The foster program facilitates a better understanding of, and relationship with, all of the animals at PAR. This allows the staff to find homes that are the best match for each pet based on individual needs.

The animals at PAR are not caged in a kennel or a facility; they live in homes with real families who teach them how to be a good house pet. Foster commitments can vary from a few days to a few months; Foster parents decide how long they are willing to commit to caring for that animal.

Those interested in becoming a foster parent please contact PhoenixFosters@gmail.com.

RESCUE RANCH

The Rescue Ranch is the most recent addition to PAR, and will serve as a place for healing, rehabilitation and kindness. It will serve as a safe haven from anything that may have happened to the dog prior to rescue.

The Rescue Ranch will be the first stop for rescued dogs on their journey to finding a forever home. Once the rescued dog is at the Rescue Ranch, PAR volunteers will help the dog heal from emotional and physical trauma, while allowing them to feel comfortable and safe. If the dog has any wounds or needs medical attention in any way, the team of veterinarians at West End Animal Hospital will diagnose and treat all issues.

The Rescue Ranch will include: cabins, play yards, agility fields and walking trails. Having a home base in Levy County will allow PAR to better reach out to the community and help dogs in need. The Rescue Ranch will give PAR the means necessary to decrease the number of pets entering the local shelter, save dogs from being euthanized, and provide a quiet place for older dogs to spend their sunset years.

Phoenix closed on the 15-acre Rescue Ranch property, on Sept. 10, 2013. PAR is still in need of building supply donations such as; small window air-conditioning units, drywall, outlets, sheet metal and more. PAR is also seeking individuals with building expertise who are willing to donate their time to constructing the ranch.

For those interested, please email PhoenixRescueRanch@gmail.com.

ADOPT

PAR is committed to finding the best home for each of the dogs in its care. PAR's adoption process includes necessary procedures to ensure that it is a good match between the dogs and their prospective adoptive homes. This includes having a PAR volunteer conduct a home visit and play date for the pet and prospective family.

Visit phoenixanimalrescue.petfinder.org to find a list of all current dogs and puppies waiting to find their forever home. Families looking to adopt also can visit PetSmart in Butler Plaza on Archer Road in Gainesville, Fla. PetSmart adoption days are every Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

VOLUNTEER

Everyone at PAR is a volunteer. Volunteers are essential to achieving the mission of PAR. PAR is always looking for individuals who have skills in event planning, fundraising and/or organizing. PAR depends on community organizations like Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, sororities and fraternities.

Volunteers are always needed on PetSmart adoption days to answer questions from prospective adopters, walk dogs, socialize pets and set up/break down crates.

For those interested in volunteering, please email phoenixvolunteercoordinator@gmail.com for a list of available jobs.

FUNDING

PAR is funded 100 percent by public donations. 100 percent of donations go toward helping the dogs we rescue. Monetary donations allow PAR to pay for vet bills, purchase training equipment, food and more. The dogs pulled from Levy County Animal Services are always in need of vet care. Donations pay for the vet bills from West End Animal Hospital. The total accumulation of vet bills for 2013 was more than \$82,000.

The Humane Society of the United States awarded the Lowell Fund Grant to PAR on July 31, 2013 in the amount of \$20,000.

PAR looks for material donations like sheets, towels, cow hooves, nylabones, squeaky toys and so much more. You can also choose to sponsor a foster dog. \$10 pays for two weeks of food for one dog in foster care. Sponsoring a foster dog ultimately helps PAR save more dogs.