

Dodi's Dogs - A ReHoming Love Story



Love Choices are Sometimes the Hardest to Make

I moved to Ecuador with my husband and my 16 year old calico cat, "Cali". I lost my husband Rick just as lock down for Covid began.

Although he did not die of Covid, it was still an incredibly complicated and emotionally draining experience.

I lost Cali at age 21 about a year later.

I have always loved animals and as a child, grew up with dogs, cats, raccoons, horses and even a monkey. I have never been without a cat or dog.

I am a magnet for animals...they just find me.

I can never go anywhere without seeing animals and I have great appreciation for all animals and empathy for any critter that seems hurt or hungry. As anyone who travels knows, there are many abandoned and neglected dogs and cats and I must do what I can to help them.

Our first adopted dog here in Ecuador was Matias.

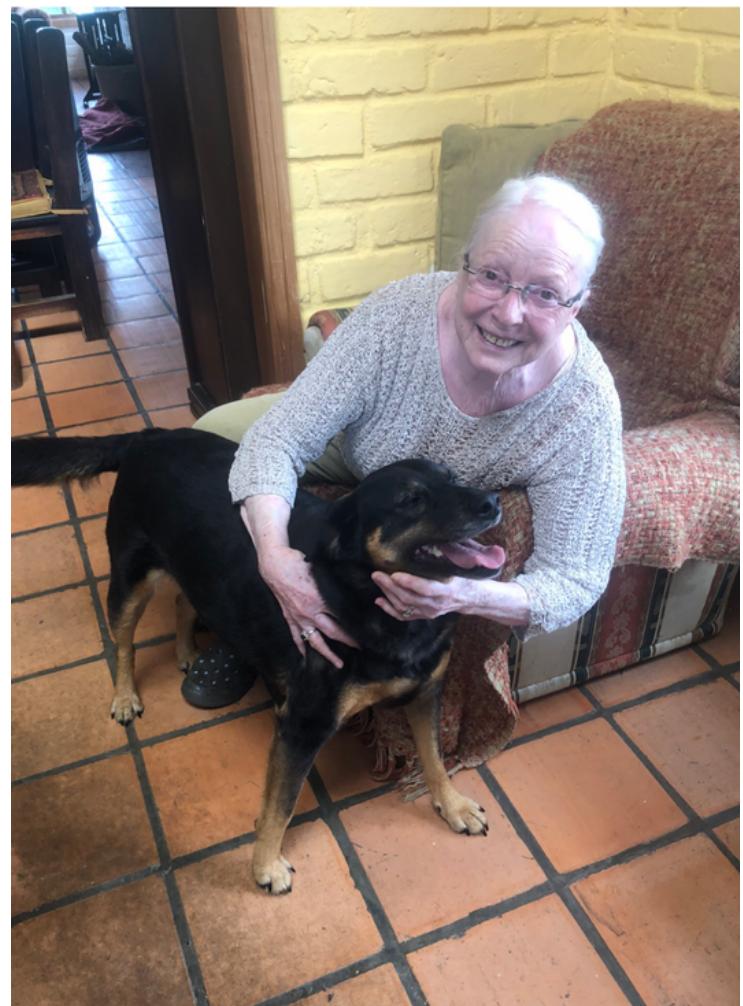
Mattie who was a large German Shepard that had been hit by a car and was terrified of people. I adopted him from an adoption event at Hotel Oro Verde.

He was the most vicious dog that I have ever worked with. I gave him 2 weeks.

I have a rule that I will not feed a dangerous dog because there are too many that need a good home. So, we were on the 8th day when I remembered the proper method for taming dogs...patience, kindness and CHICKEN!

I got him a 4 pack of thighs and by the 3rd one, he laid his head right on my knee and he was from then on my best buddy.

I was the only person he trusted totally. Mattie accepted Rick, but he was my boy.



One day Mattie and I were walking along the river and we saw an old dog tied right down at the river and I asked him if he wanted to come home with us?

He did!

I thought he was a little dog. He was not a small dog he was just starving! That's how we got Rio. When we were moving to a house with a bigger yard the neighbor kids gave me a puppy that they couldn't keep...that was Moxie.

We had not been here for a year and we had a cat and 3 dogs!

Friends rescued 3 abandoned female puppies and I fostered them. One was dropped back off at our gate..no explanation..so that was Maisey!



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My husband and I got a car and I got my license so we could shop and take critters to the vet. We liked to drive out to the Cajas and that's where we found 2 sisters, Sophie and Sadie (my names).

They were only about 4 months old. They were the "security system" for a cafe and were chained up to dog boxes on either end of the property.

I felt sorry for them so I went to visit them to feed, water and change their bedding two times a week and let them run through the Cajas.

I did this for a year until one day they were gone!

I asked the staff and they said the authorities told the owner that dogs could not be chained and they would be fined so they took Sadie home and gave Sophie to a local farmer, who also tied her up! *I burst into tears*



The young woman said, "I'll go get her."

She returned shortly with Sophie. So that brought us up to 5.

Of course during the whole time that we were growing our pack, I was feeding and caring for many local and street dogs. We moved our pack out to the country and our daily walks included 12 dogs.

Only 5 were "ours".

Any dog that played in our yard and came into the house was treated for parasites, de-fleas, and was neutered at our expense.

I was asked to foster a lovely Labradoodle, Jesse.

It was supposed to be temporary.

I have cared for and loved him for 3 years now.



I have moved twice since Rick's death and as moths to a flame, I attract dogs and in one case a cat named San Miquel de Putushii. I have lost to death, Mattie, Moxie, Blue, who adopted me in between Rio and Mattie, and dear Cali. I still feed at least 5-6 street dogs daily at my front gate.

My dogs get so excited to go bark at the "breakfast club" every morning.

I love my dogs and cats and can honestly say that I love all animals. It is a huge emotional challenge to pick which of my precious pets to take to the US and which to leave behind in the hands of others. It is a great weight and sorrowful burden. I have two dear friends here who asked me yesterday, why am I taking any of my dogs with me? After all, "they are just dogs".

I was taken off guard, I didn't know if I should be angry or cry.

People either get it or they really don't. For all the heartache I have had and will have again, no doubt, I would never want to be any different. To know compassion and feel the love from and for the animals is what makes me who I am.

I was asked why I chose FAAN to help re-home my beloved dogs.

I feel that FAAN's mission to make Cuenca *The City That Cares* is inline with my vision of what I want for all street and "owned" animals.

FAAN has real compassion and yet has practical goals.

Moving forward FAAN understands that health, nutrition, and population needs of the domesticated animals are intricately entwined with humans and the environment. Education is vital to the future of co-existence and genuine compassion and stewardship of this beautiful country.

...this is Dodi's story as told to Kathy Keel

Would you like to meet Jessie, Maisey or Sophie?
These three loving adult dogs are ready for a new fur-ever home

please email us at info@FAANcuador.org



Maisey's story starts on the side of a hill in Sustang which is near the only golf course in Cuenca.

Her mother had dug a hole there and given birth to a litter of puppies. Dodie was visiting friends when she saw Maisey's little mother (a poodle/terrier mix) running around taking care of her puppies.

Dodie asked her friends to keep an eye on them and one day the mother disappeared along with the male puppies. Sadly, the three females puppies were left abandoned alone on the side of the hill!

Dodie was traveling at the time so she asked her friends to keep them for a few days and Dodie would foster them when she returned. Maisey and her two sisters were adopted but Maisey was returned after about a month with no explanation. Since then Maisey has been living a happy life with Dodie and become a sweet, loving companion.

Maisey is a 6 year old poodle/terrier mix on her mom's side combined with something a little bigger (maybe Border Collie?) on her dad's side which resulted in a unique, medium sized dog.

She is very friendly with people and other dogs and especially loves to play with her pack mate and amiga, Sophie, with whom she is very bonded.

Because Maisey is an adult dog, she does not have destructive behaviors that some puppies may have. She is overall a calm, friendly, and loving dog that will fit into any family. Maisey is spayed, up to date on her shots and is very healthy. On top of that, she is housebroken and follows basic commands such as, "sit", "come", "go potty", "stay", etc. What a great dog!

Sophie is a sweet, medium sized dog that was rescued by Dodie five years ago. Her start in life was not a good one.

When Dodie first saw Sophie she was about four months old and was tied, along with her sister, at a rural restaurant in the Cajas. They were secured on opposite sides of the restaurant and used as guard dogs (or so the restaurant owner thought).

Dodie befriended the dogs and would visit them regularly for a year until one day the dogs were not there! Dodie was so upset the workers retrieved Sophie from the farm she had been taken to and Dodie took her home.

As it turned out Sophie had been tied at the farm all this time. Although Sophie had a rough start in life she has been happy for the past five years living with Dodie and has become a loving and playful dog.

Sophie is healthy, spayed, and up to date on all her shots. She is a mixed breed which makes her an original!

She loves children, all people and gets along with other dogs. *She is especially bonded with Maisey.* It is hoped that they will be adopted as a pair but this is not required.

Sophie is housebroken, and understands some simple commands such as “sit”, “come”, “stay” and “go potty”. Because she is mature and not a puppy, she does not chew furniture or exhibit other destructive behaviors.



Jessie was brought to Cuenca from the United States but when his original owner returned to the US she was unable to take him. She reluctantly surrendered him to another local rescue group and Dodie was asked to foster him.

Jessie has been a member of the family for the last three years.

At 7 years old, Jessie is a handsome mocha colored Labradoodle that is a perfect gentlemen and companion for someone looking for a calm, relaxed, mature friend. His sweet nature and calm disposition make him a great condo dog.



Jesse will fit right into almost any home. He is neutered, up to date on all his shots, and he is housebroken. Jesse would be happy as an only dog, or with other dogs as he gets along well with others and did we mentioned how relaxed he is?

Jesse was diagnosed with Lupus but does not require medication. His only symptoms are slightly reddened eyes and a minor irritation on his nose.

He's healthy and happy and ready to go for slow walks or just hang out with you.

Maisey, Sophie and Jessie are available for adoption now.

All three dogs may be adopted individually or together as a ready made family. Sophie and Maisey are a bonded pair and it is preferable, but not required that they be adopted together

Please contact us at info@FAANcuador to arrange a meet and greet