



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

ELEVENTH EDITION [OCTOBER 2023]

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

SPECIAL RESCUES

TRIPS (MAGGI) 1-2

NUGGET & CHASE..... 4

ADOPTION STORIES

LILY & LAILA..... 3

& MORE

GOVERNMENT MATCHING..... 3

Our mission is to improve the quality of lives of stray dogs through rescue, rehabilitation and re-homing them; to increase public awareness and acceptance of stray dogs as companion animals and that they deserved to be treated with compassion and kindness.



A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE

While volunteers took time off work and other commitments to walk the dogs of MercyLight, they heard barking and discovered an abandoned blessing. Taken immediately in for care, she was fostered and re-homed.

Trips (renamed to Maggi) was discovered in a drain outside the shelter on 7 August during the shelter pack's daily evening walk when one of our shelter dogs, Hailey, started barking and alerted the volunteers to her presence. Trips was gentle, mild mannered and docile, and did not put up any resistance during the rescue. She was visibly neglected and malnourished - her nails were long and dirty, her fur was matted and her teeth were in a state of advanced decay. It is suspected that she was intentionally abandoned in that drain - sadly, no CCTVs or witnesses were in the area to provide any evidence and give us a clue as to how she ended up there, or how long she had been there.

Trips was sent to Dr Kitty (MercyLight's regular vet) immediately for assessment and treatment. Due to her poor health condition, her age could not be determined, but she was estimated to be about 5-10 years old. Fortunately, her blood test results did not show any serious illnesses.

Subsequently, MercyLight volunteers Anna and Justin kindly stepped up and took turns fostering Trips and nursed her back to health. Thankfully, Trips had a healthy appetite and ate her meals with enthusiasm - she managed to put on weight and her health condition significantly improved. Trips opened up gradually and became more sociable, confident and affectionate during her stay with Anna and Justin.



Volunteer Justin fostered Trips and helped her regain her health, fur and spirit.

TRIPS' STORY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

On 11 August, couple Choon Kiat and Min submitted an application to adopt Trips after seeing a post about her story on social media platform Xiaohongshu. Having previously adopted a Shih Tzu named Muffin, and also possessing ample experience caring for their other dogs Milo and Molly, they were on the lookout for an opportunity to welcome another dog into their family after the passing of Milo and Muffin. They first met and interacted with Trips on 23 August, and finalised her adoption in September.

Thanks to Hailey's sharp senses, swift rescue efforts by Mercylight volunteers, as well as the love and care shown by fosterers Anna and Justin, Trips has made a full recovery and found a loving forever home with Choon Kiat and Min - and she has been renamed Maggi!

Animal abandonment cases like this are heartbreaking, and sadly on the rise in recent years, putting a greater strain on government authorities and Animal Welfare Groups like Mercylight. Reasons from abandonment vary, ranging from financial difficulties and lifestyle changes, to a lack of awareness about the responsibilities of pet ownership. The Animal and Veterinary Service (AVS) reportedly investigated 310 cases of pets being abandoned in 2022. This was up from 225 in 2021, 251 in 2020 and 230 in 2019.



THEN: A photo of Trips on the day she was found by volunteers in a drain outside The Animal Lodge. Trips showed signs of neglect - sparse fur and long nails and was visibly malnourishment. Thankfully, blood tests showed no serious illnesses.

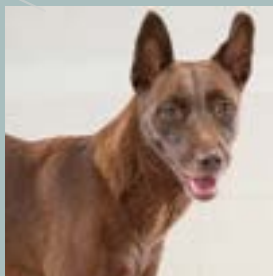
Although pet abandonment is a crime that is punishable by law, many of these abandoned animals are challenging to identify as they are not microchipped or registered, and are usually dumped in areas with no CCTV surveillance or eye witnesses. More educational efforts are necessary to increase public awareness and instill a stronger sense of responsibility within potential and existing pet owners.



NOW: Trips (renamed Maggi)

Stricter enforcement and regulations on pet ownership such as mandatory microchipping and stronger penalties for abandonment can also act as a deterrent. Every pet deserves a permanent, caring home, and we should strive to work towards a future where animal abandonment becomes a rare occurrence. 🐾

SPOTLIGHT ON...!



FAITHFUL

After disappearing from her usual feeding spot at Jalan Lekar, Faithful was tracked down and rescued on 25 June 2022. Volunteers found her in a poor state with an amputated tail, not unlike a recent rescue, Nugget. Since then, she has been slowly settling in at the shelter. Although she has a shy and gentle demeanour, she can be easily won over with a tasty treat or two! She is HDB approved and will make a sweet companion.

KuhlBear was rescued in 2014 when the industrial area he grew up in was destroyed and he was left to fend for himself. KuhlBear is a very good boy who seems to be relieved that he now has a roof over his head and regular meals. KuhlBear has short fur and can be found relaxing in a couple different spots in the shelter.

KUHLBEAR



MEET THE ADOPTERS: LILY & LAILA

BOXER PAIR FINDS A HOME WITH ADOPTERS FAMILIAR WITH THE BREED

Mark and Joy first saw the post about boxer sisters Lily and Laila on MercyLight's Facebook page when they were put up for adoption in December 2022. Mark's aunt back home in the United Kingdom exclusively rescued boxer dogs and Mark always felt a slight affinity with the boxer breed. However, with no experience in having any dogs of their own, adopting one dog (much less two!) seemed out of the question for big animal lovers Mark and Joy.

Six months passed, and Lily and Laila still had not successfully been rehomed. This was when Mark and Joy decided to take a chance and indicate their interest to provide a loving home for the pair of siblings. While the couple had previous interactions with the boxer breed and helped to care for the family's German Shepherd, it was naturally still a rather daunting decision.

To their surprise, Kelly reached out to them shortly after they submitted the MercyLight adoption form to ask if they'd like to meet Lily and Laila in person. And so the adoption process began - for the next four weeks, Mark and Joy visited the boxer sisters to find out more about their temperament and bond with them. The process was made seamless with Kelly hand holding Mark and Joy a lot of the way and always being available to answer any queries and concerns they had.

Settling into life with two new dogs:

A challenging but rewarding experience

Lily and Laila settled into life with their new pawrents Mark and Joy almost immediately. With two very distinctive personalities, Mark and Joy each have a favourite. Laila, the more playful and attention-seeking sibling, is Mark's shadow. Whenever Mark is on his laptop working, Laila can be found laying down right beside Mark and staring lovingly at him.

Lily, on the other hand, is more strong-willed and independent. Taking on the role of an older sister, Lily is fiercely protective of Laila and is constantly watching out for her sister.



Lily and Laila with adopters Mark and Joy. Since adopting the pair, Mark and Joy notice their lives have become more active and their social circles have become wider.

With a soft spot for Lily's unwavering loyalty and a "grumpy grandma" personality, Joy found herself bonding more to Lily.

Since adopting the boxer sisters, Mark and Joy's lives have become more active and their social circles have expanded greatly. Mark also finds that the responsibility of having to bring the dogs for their daily walks has helped him in taking the edge off after a stressful work day. Whenever they have the chance, Mark and Joy would bring the sibling pair out with them and involve them in their daily lives. Since officially adopting them, Lily and Laila have been to the Botanic Gardens, numerous dog parks and dog friendly cafes and even swimming classes to help ease their early onset arthritis.

Choosing to Adopt

Lily and Laila hit the jackpot in finding themselves a forever home. But not every dog is so lucky. There are constantly many animals that need a home, and not every dog is granted this second chance at life. If you are looking to open your home to a dog, do consider rewriting a dog's future and opening your heart to a rescue dog! 🐾

government
matching
campaign

BE A BLESSING, MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The government will give a dollar-for-dollar match for donations via:

- > [Giving.sg](#) search for "Be a Blessing, Make a Difference"
- > [Give.asia](#) search for "Be a Blessing, Make a Difference"
- > [PayNow UEN 201502278Z](#)

The word "Blessing" must be entered into the Reference/Comment box to be eligible for the govt matching. 🐾



Until 31 March 2024

NEW RESCUE: CHASE AND NUGGET

FRESH FACES AT MERCYLIGHT

Nugget and Chase were familiar faces to the volunteer feeders who had been feeding the roving pair for about four months. The feeders noticed that the inseparable pair were severely wounded and in need of medical attention. Volunteers embarked on a race against time to trap and rescue both dogs before they succumbed to their injuries.

Both dogs were successfully trapped and rescued a week apart in August. Nugget was rescued first on 4 August 2023, and immediately receive much-needed medical attention. Nugget had a severely infected tail that needed cleaning and removal of maggots. Nugget's hind legs had some abnormal movement, however investigations and treatment can only begin after his heartworm treatment is complete.

After a harrowing week of evading our traps, Chase was finally rescued on 11 August 2023. His neck wound, likely the result of a wild boar attack, had worsened, and he needed urgent care. The vet assessed that his wound was too badly infected to be closed at that point, and Chase subsequently underwent reconstructive surgery to close the wound.

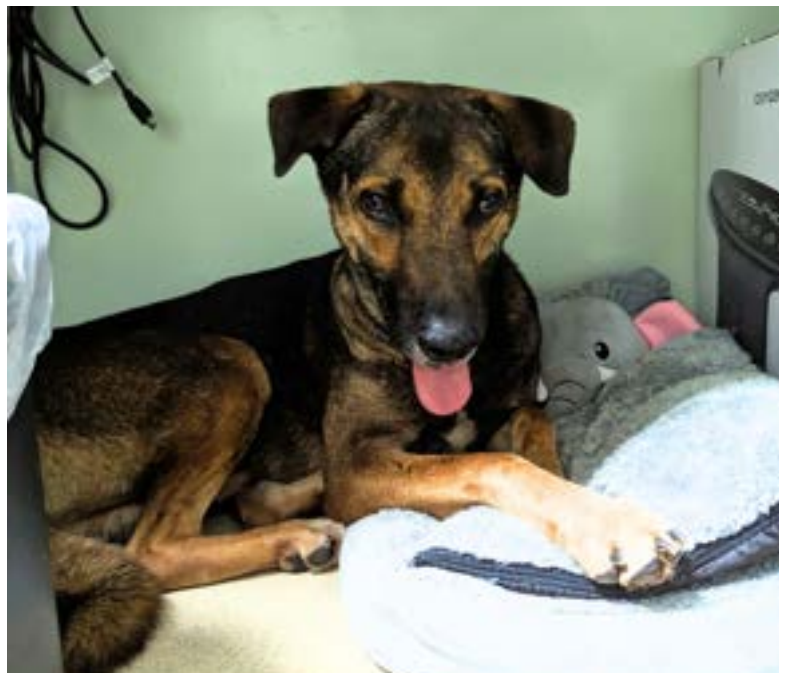
Both dogs were also found to be tick fever and heartworm positive, common but easily preventable infections in Singapore Specials living on the streets. Both infections require careful monitoring and medication. It can take up to 5 months to treat.

Once the pair was stable enough to be discharged from the hospital, they were relocated to our shelter, where MercyLight volunteers care and assist in their recovery.

On a daily basis there are as many as two to three volunteers who support with treatment. Communication is key and volunteers share videos of everything from treatment methods to observations. Through patience and care, volunteers hope to improve the future of each rescue by supporting each rescue's health and socialisation journey so they can have a strong chance at finding their forever home. 🐾



Nugget was rescued with a short tail infested by maggots. It seemed amputated, but, in reality, it had been shortened due to his injury before the rescue.



MercyLight volunteers raced to rescue Nugget and Chase. Chase was found with a grisly neck wound, likely the result of a boar attack. Chase swiftly underwent surgery to mend the wound and has been recovering under the care of volunteers while also receiving treatment for tick fever and heartworm.

MercyLight is dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating and rehoming stray dogs, so that they may get a second chance in life. Rescue efforts require a great amount of time, effort and manpower, but we believe that every single dog rescued makes it worthwhile.



Catch the next issue in January 2024!

