



# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

TWENTIETH EDITION [QUARTER 1 2026]

## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

### SPECIAL FEATURE

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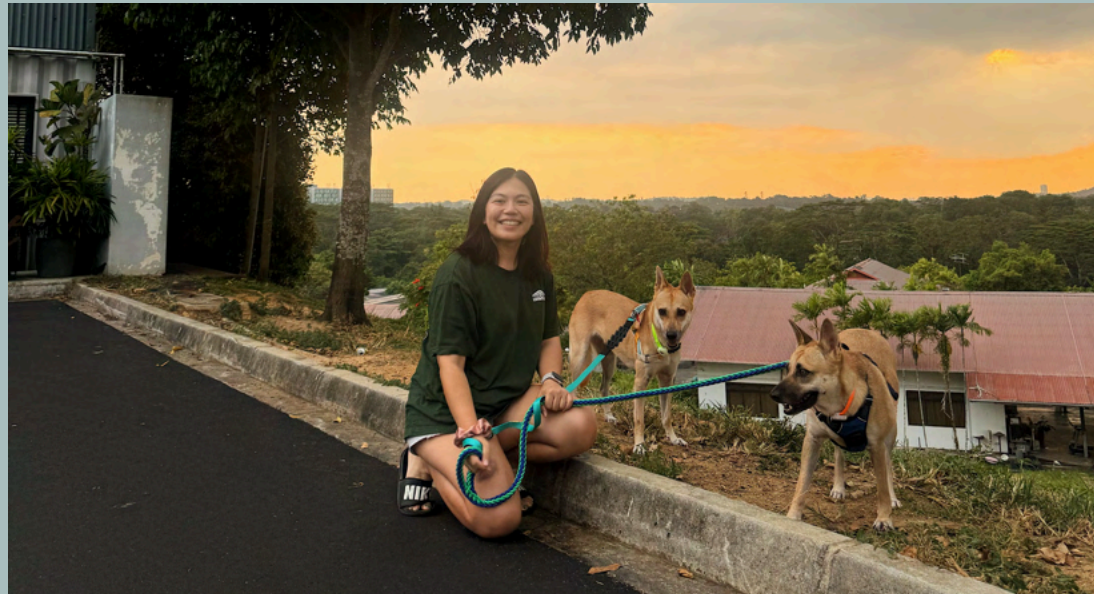
### ADOPTION STORIES

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**Our mission is to improve the quality of life for stray dogs through rescue, rehabilitation, and rehoming; and to increase public awareness and acceptance of stray dogs as companion animals who deserve to be treated with compassion and kindness.**



## VOLUNTEER FEATURE - GET TO KNOW SABRINA!

**Mercylight and all its rescues, rehabilitation and care are managed by volunteers who give their time, energy and heart to each Blessing. We take a few minutes with Sabrina to hear her story about her volunteering experience at Mercylight.**

### **Please introduce yourself!**

I'm Sabrina, and I run The Woof Pack (@thewoofpacksg on Instagram), an outdoor adventure company for dogs. I grew up with dogs and currently have two of my own. I joined Mercylight in October 2024.

### **How long have you been a kennel volunteer? What inspired you to start volunteering at Mercylight?**

I've been volunteering at Mercylight for about a year and a half now. I've always wanted to volunteer at a shelter to work with different types of dogs and help those in need, but I never found a place where I could be so hands-on with the dogs until I came across Mercylight.

### **Can you run us through a typical volunteering session?**

I volunteer during the PM shift, which usually starts at 6pm. When we arrive, we begin by taking the dogs out for their evening walks, kennel by kennel. Depending on our experience, each volunteer may handle 1-3 dogs at a time. After the walks, we move on to our assigned tasks, which can include feeding meals, applying medication, administering oral medication, preparing heat pads and doing rehabilitative massages, as well as showering the dogs. Once everything is done, we take the dogs out for their final pee break before settling them in for the night by putting down their bedding. A typical PM shift usually ends around 10pm.

### **What has been the most enjoyable or rewarding part of volunteering?**

The most enjoyable part is definitely seeing the same familiar faces - humans and dogs - every week. The most rewarding part is to watch a dog recover from an injury, slowly warm up to people and other dogs, gain confidence and eventually get adopted into a loving home.

*Continued on Page 2...*

## CONTINUED: VOLUNTEER FEATURE

### What has been the most challenging part of volunteering at MercyLight?

It can be tough when a dog falls sick, or when certain dogs don't get along with one another.

### Has volunteering changed your perspective on dogs or animal welfare? What are some things you've learned from working with rescue dogs?

Before volunteering, I placed a lot of emphasis on being confident and assertive when handling dogs. Through my experience as a kennel volunteer, it has really opened my eyes to the many different ways of approaching dogs, especially those that are more timid or fearful. I've learnt that patience, sensitivity and adapting your approach to each individual dog can make a huge difference.

### What advice would you give to someone who is considering volunteering?

Just give it a try. It's not as difficult as you might imagine, and nothing quite compares to how rewarding the experience can be.

### What is it like being part of the MercyLight volunteer community?

It has brought me closer to other dog lovers and created a supportive community that I can turn to whenever I face challenges, whether they're dog related or not.

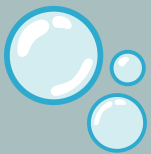
### Do you have a favourite dog at MercyLight? If yes, who and why?

It's difficult to choose just one, as I have several favourites, each with their own unique quirks. But if I had to pick one, it would be Amber. She's such a sweet, even-tempered girl.

She might be overlooked because she doesn't immediately approach humans and sometimes she prefers to keep to herself (unless you're holding food). People might assume she's lazy or not very outdoorsy because of her small frame, but she actually loves running around with other dogs and rolling in the grass. 🐾

## KENNEL VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers support daily shelter operations which include:



**SHOWERING**  
Cleaning and bathing our Blessings with care and patience.



**KENNEL HYGIENE**  
Thorough daily cleaning of the kennels for a safe environment.



**WALKING & TRAINING**  
Providing the dogs with daily exercise outdoor and attending structured obedience classes.



**HEALTHCARE**  
Oral and topical medication, supplements and rehabilitative exercises.



**FEEDING**  
Cooking and feeding specialised meals for every dog.

Interested in volunteering, or know someone who might be? Reach out via our website's volunteer page!

## HOW ELSE CAN YOU SUPPORT US?



**DONATE**  
Your contributions provide our Blessings with proper medical care, nutrition and overall welfare.



**ADOPT OR FOSTER**  
Opening your homes and hearts to a Blessing.



**SPREAD THE WORD**  
Sharing about adoptable dogs and raising awareness about animal welfare goes a long way.

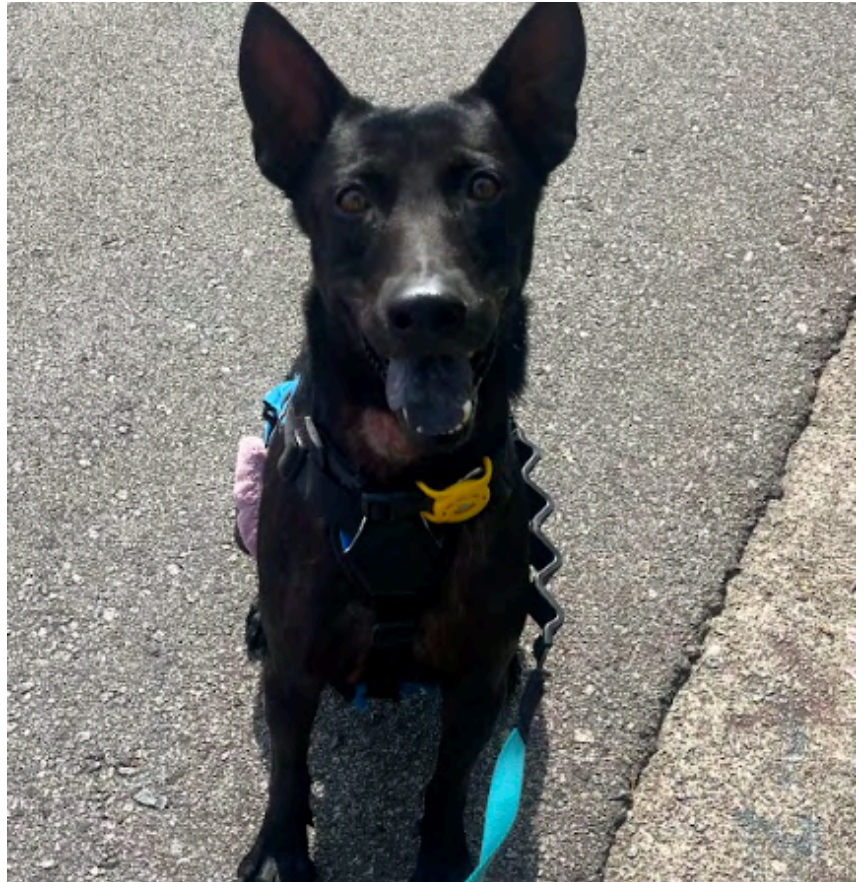
## NEW RESCUES: COSMOS & NORI RESCUED AND GROWING STRONGER EACH DAY

Cosmos and Nori are a pair of black coated dogs caught near Tanah Merah Coast Road and surrendered to NParks by a third party. After going through two rounds of circulation across various AWGs with no takers, MercyLight stepped in to redeem them both, and they're now settling in at the shelter together.

If you'd like to meet Cosmos and Nori, or find out more about giving them a forever home, reach out to us! Both dogs are HDB approved.



**NORI** - A calm girl who adapts quickly. On her second day, she knew how to use the common toilet, demonstrating intelligence given that she has never been potty trained. She quickly gained confidence and expanded her comfort zone in the shelter within days.



**COSMOS** - A playful and cheeky boy. He was a little unsure initially, but when he saw how other dogs greeted volunteers every morning, he started doing the same by the end of the first week. He loves to eat too!

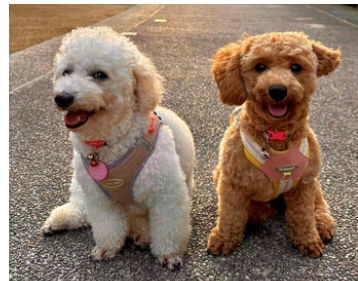
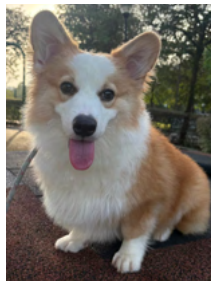
# ADOPTED: ANGEL & ROSIE HELPING ALL CREATURES GREAT & SMALL

Ahead of an unexpected relocation back to Denmark, Christian reached out to MercyLight to seek our help to rehome their rabbit (Angel) and guinea pig (Rosie). They had been trying unsuccessfully to find a suitable new home for Angel and Rosie privately. We spread the word among MercyLight volunteers who then reached out to their own friends who may be interested. Within a short amount of time, both Angel and Rosie found their suitable loving homes.



REHOMED - Angel the lion head rabbit (left), Rosie the Guinea pig and adopters (right)

# REDEEMED FROM NPARKS TO FOREVER HOMES 5 CONFISCATED DOGS WELCOMED BY THEIR NEW FAMILIES



# HELP KEEP OUR DOGS HEALTHY, FED & THRIVING!

## KIBBLE DONATION THAT GOES A LONG WAY

At MercyLight, many of our rescued dogs rely on specialized kibble to support their health conditions and daily nutritional needs. As a high-use essential item, kibble sponsorships directly ensure every dog receives the food they need to heal, grow and feel safe. This specialized formula is critical for several of our dogs with sensitive stomachs and ongoing medical issues. Your sponsorship provides them with the comfort and nourishment they depend on every single day.

We urgently need sponsors for:

Hills Prescription Diet

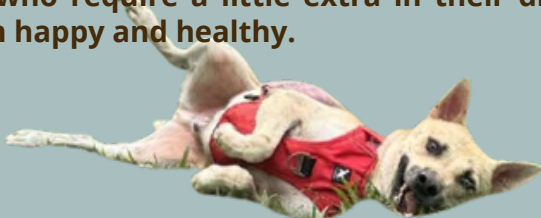
Gastrointestinal Biome Kibble

Cost: \$228 per bag

Call Furiends Vet Clinic at +65 6244 2112 to sponsor a bag of Kibble today!



SOME OF THE FACES YOU HELP - Ace, Dante, Ava and Nori (from left to right) are some of the MercyLight blessings who require a little extra in their diets to keep them happy and healthy.



## MEET THE ADOPTERS: FELIX

**FIRST-TIME DOG PARENTS JOHANNA AND EDWARD ALWAYS DREAMED OF ADOPTING - A SURPRISE CONNECTION WITH FELIX AT MERCYLIGHT MADE THAT DREAM REAL. THIS IS THEIR JOURNEY OF PATIENCE, LEARNING AND LOVING THEIR "LONGBOY".**

### Share a bit about yourselves!

**Johanna:** I'm a project manager, with no background of owning any pets (besides a hamster in secondary school). My brother adopted cats when the family were all living together, so there were a number of years that I helped care for the cats.

**Edward:** I'm a software engineer with no background of owning any pets either. We're both first time dog owners.

### What made you decide to adopt? Why did you choose to adopt from MercyLight?

Before we got married, we had conversations about having pets after we had our own home - both of us agreed that we wanted to adopt a dog. My cousin owns a pet shop, and it would've been an easy course of action to just buy a puppy. But we've also been following a number of shelters on social media and seeing the number of beautiful dogs that deserved a home. It just felt like the right decision to explore adopting a shelter dog instead.

Before we moved in to our home, we gave ourselves 1 year to enjoy the home before we brought a pet in - we even did a "Send a postcard to yourself 1 year later" activity and asked our future selves if we already had a pet (we didn't). But after a year since moving in, we realised that my (Jo's) work was just too demanding for the commitment. I was working late nights, over weekends, and frequently flying for projects overseas.

In 2025, we decided to move away to Japan for 6 months for me (Jo) to recalibrate and for Ed to have a new environment since he had the freedom to work remotely. While we were there, we had a lot of time to reflect and to reassess our lives for 2026. It was in October 2025 that we made the decision of applying to adopt with MercyLight. MercyLight's values resonated with us, and the dogs seemed to have a really great exposure and quality of life - the dogs were not kept in cages and are often taken out for pack walks and outings.

### Why did you pick Felix? What was the moment you knew Felix was the one?

To be honest, Felix wasn't on our shortlist. We originally shortlisted Esprit Jr, Dante, Poppy and Izzie on our list. During the 1st visit to MercyLight, we tried to befriend the shortlisted dogs, but of course being strangers to them, they steered clear of us - Esprit Jr (known as a lap dog) couldn't stand us and barked incessantly at the sight of us. As first time dog owners, we came in not knowing what to expect. So we were pretty clueless as to what to do with this uneventful outcome.



### Meet Johanna, Edward, and Felix — two first-time pawrents and one very long, very goofy boy who walked straight into their lives (and onto their laps).

I (Jo) was sitting on the floor waiting for any of the dogs to approach us on their own terms, and out of the blue this tall handsome dog came up to me and put his head down (it looked to me like a "pat me" moment) - instinctively I scratched his head. Kelly walked past at that moment and said "That's strange, Felix doesn't usually allow strangers near him or even touch him."

We decided then to add him to our shortlist while we continued to warm up to the dogs on the list. We had availability in December 2025, so we decided to fully commit to the process and visit MercyLight every 2-3 days. With each visit, we grew more and more attached to Felix. And by the 4th/5th visit out of 8-10 visits that we made, we decided to go all in with Felix.

### What was the adoption process like for you?

The adoption process was well structured - Kelly provided us with clear information on what to expect from the get go. This was really informative.

We applied at the beginning of November, with the timeline of starting visits from December 2025 after we return from Japan, and hopefully adopting in the new year.

*Continued on Page 6...*

# MEET THE ADOPTERS: FELIX

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

We heard back from Kelly within a month - it was a detailed breakdown of how many visits to expect, including a thorough questionnaire of our lifestyle. Although it may seem intimidating compared to the easy process of purchasing a dog, we really appreciate knowing that MercyLight's utmost priority is to ensure the dogs are going to the right homes and that the adopters are also prepared for what they're going to get into.

We did regular visits and outings with Felix in December, and throughout the process, we learnt so much from Kelly as well as from the volunteers - shout out to Sherlyn, Jolene, Qi En and the vollies who love Felix so dearly.

We took Felix home with us on boxing day (26 Dec) to introduce him to his new environment. He panted for a while and cautiously paced around, but mainly stayed near to us next to the Christmas tree. Eventually he calmed down enough to lay beside us and drink water as well. We then took him back to MercyLight, before we officially started home stays from onwards of New Years Eve (3 x 3-5 night stays) before we did the full 3 week home trial.

No one knows the dogs' personalities better than the MercyLight team, and so they were a great resource to lean on, especially during the home stays.

During the 1st staycation, Felix refused to eat, and barely drank much water - he did not even take to his favourite egg yolk that he would usually not be able to resist. It got to a point that he would throw up bile due to his empty stomach - this worried us, but Kelly was really reassuring, always making time to assess the situation and guiding us through each new scenario that Felix threw our way.

During the 2nd home stay, Felix still wouldn't eat his meals, unless it was chicken porridge, or any food that did not include kibbles. He was also finally eating his egg yolk. Eventually, we managed to get him to eat his meals - but not without a fuss.

Felix is a notoriously fussy eater - he's been with us for 3 months now, and he still keeps us on our toes. He'll eat well for a couple days, then decide that he doesn't feel like the food's good enough by nose nudging the bowl. We'll change the menu, and he'll eat just fine - but again this is only good for a couple days before he goes through another cycle of protesting his meals. We nicknamed him Shaoye/Master Felix during his homestays.

He has a habit of wanting to wait it out to see if better toppers will be added if he refuses his food. We've met other adopters whose dogs ate well after 3 days, or up to 2 weeks. But Felix is a tough cookie, and at 3 months on, we're still in the process of trying to work him out of this habit.

### **What has been the biggest surprise or challenge about adopting Felix that you did not expect?**

Surprise: We were very proud of him when we started leaving him to test for separation anxiety - which he doesn't seem to show any signs of. He would pace around initially, but eventually he'd just plop himself on his bed to rest. Sometimes we look at the CCTV and find his long body sprawled out on the floor.

Challenge: At MercyLight, Felix was pretty amicable with the other dogs. While he walks well, he does react to other dogs if they're a little too close or if they try to sniff him. We're still learning how to encourage him to socialise or be comfortable around other dogs.

### **What has been the most rewarding part about adopting Felix? How has he changed your life/routine?**

Every successful meal is a rewarding thing. Because he's still a picky eater even till now, and we never know when a meal will be successful until he finishes it.

The next milestone that we feel would be really rewarding would be for him to have a better relationship with other dogs on his walks and at the dog runs.

Having Felix has introduced more boundaries/structure into our life. I (Johanna) used to continue working late into the night just because I could, but now I can't because I have to go home to spend time with Felix - it really is like having a child. Funnily we're able to have conversations with human parents even when we don't have kids - our friends would ask how Felix is adjusting and when we share with them about Felix's personality and picky eating, we've had replies of "OMG, that sounds just like my 2 year old daughter." or "That's exactly like my kid - she likes to pick at her food".

## FELIX'S MEAL PLAN



### **Menu 1**

**Cereal style: Hypo kibble + milk and water**

### **Menu 2**

**Congee style: Shredded protein (chicken / kangaroo / duck) + Acana kibble + porridge + dash of milk**

### **And after his meal**

**He gets homemade kefir - special shoutout to Ching Ching who so kindly gave us kefir grains and guided us through the process so that Felix can continue enjoying the kefir he had at MercyLight.**



## MEET THE ADOPTERS: FELIX

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

**If you could describe Felix in 3 words, what would they be?**

Velcro, stubborn, goofy!

**Do you have any advice for others who are considering adoption? Any other tips you would like to share?**

Come into the idea of adoption with an open and willing heart and mind. It'll be a lot of work on both your side and the dog's side to create that bond and connection, and it'll be a constant learning process.

Finally, I think that the MercyLight community (and the SS community) is such a wonderful one:

- We went for the first pack walk during CNY and we loved seeing Felix so happy to see his friends
- Sherlyn has also invited us out to Sentosa to play with Dante and Bethel
- We've also met Nino, a MercyLight alumni who lives near us (Felix is still learning to befriend Nino, but Nino is such a sweetheart)

In general, we've never once felt alone in this journey of owning an SS. Kelly, the volunteers and adopters have all been such a strong support system in one way or another and we're so grateful for this opportunity.



**Weekly family adventures with Felix - exploring new places, creating unforgettable memories and strengthening bonds!**

## A DAY IN MY LIFE!



### Weekday Edition:

- 7am:** Our alarm goes off, followed by snoozes
- 7.30am:** We eventually get out of bed, so Felix gets out of bed too and does a massive stretch - loooooongboy
- 8.00am:** Edward takes Felix out for a +/- 3km morning run around the connector
- 9.00am:** Back home, paws are cleaned, and Felix gets the zoomies, picks a toy and whips it around. We'll throw the toy and play fetch for a bit until he decides (usually after 4 rounds) he's had enough. Pawrents will then work, there's always one of us WFH, so he'll be napping next to us while we work
- 10.30am:** Meal time. Lunch is usually tricky!
- 2.00pm - 3.00pm:** A mid-day stretch, just to touch grass
- 6.00pm:** Evening stroll along the connector
- 8.00pm:** Meal time - After this meal, he's usually on his side with his eyes rolled
- 10.00pm:** Pre-bedtime stroll

### Weekend Edition:

- 7am:** Our alarm go off, followed by snoozes
- 7.30am:** We eventually get out of bed, so Felix gets out of bed too and does a massive stretch - loooooongboy
- 8.00am:** Edward takes Felix out for a +/- 3km morning walk around the connector
- 9.00am:** Back home, paws are cleaned, Johanna's best friend comes over, which Felix knows is a sign that he's in for a good long walk, so he gets really excited when he sees her
- 9.30am - 12.30pm:** We'll walk from our place to a nearby dog run (Koon Seng Park, Katong Park or East Coast Park) and we'll get a good run out of him for maybe 15 minutes or so. Then we head to a dog friendly cafe that has a nice corner seat before walking back home after lunch
- 1.00pm:** After his outing, he gets his weekly shower and teeth brushing, before he gets his favourite duck neck treat
- 2.00pm:** He'll usually be more amicable to have his meal after an eventful morning out
- 3.00pm - 6.00pm:** You'll usually find him napping spread out on his bed
- 6.00pm:** Evening stroll along the connector
- 8.00pm:** Meal time - after this meal, he's usually on his side with his eyes rolled
- 10.00pm:** Pre-bedtime stroll

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 June 2026

