



Dreaming of

DREAM Rescue gives Dachshunds a second chance at finding loving homes

Written by Marysabel Cardozo | Select photography by Anetrius Wallace

Bentley used to be in a shelter in need of a surgery to restore his shattered pelvis. A small, scared, Dachshund, it seemed there was no hope for Bentley - until DREAM Dachshund Rescue was contacted.

“For these ‘broken’ little dogs, a breed-specific rescue like DREAM is their only hope,” says Cindy Carver, volunteer and head of DREAM’s public relations. As posts flooded

the organization’s Facebook page, Bentley’s story went international and enough donations were collected for his surgery. “He went from a sad, paralyzed, frightened bundle of matted mess, to an energetic and thriving lovebug,” Carver says. With the help of his veterinary team and love from his foster mom, Bentley is just one of the many Dachshunds who has been rescued by DREAM Rescue.



Members of the DREAM Dachshund Rescue organization help rehabilitate abandoned Dachshunds and find them loving homes

Dachshunds

A Mission to Save

Dachshund rescue, education, and adoption mission, (DREAM), is a non-profit organization dedicated to rescuing abandoned Dachshunds and finding new homes for Dachshunds whose owners can no longer care for them. Initially, DREAM Rescue was started by a dozen Dachshund lovers because of the increasing number of stray, abandoned, and, in particular, owner-surrendered Dachshunds in and around the greater Houston area.

DREAM Rescue differs from other organizations in that it aims to accept dogs from owners who have decided they cannot care for them anymore. In doing so, they help dogs avoid going to a shelter. "It is not always easy in this business," says Suzanne Caillouet, president of DREAM Rescue, and one of the founding members. "We wanted to help these families avoid additional agony by bringing their pets directly into our rescue program which we found to be a more positive move in a multitude of ways."

While others might not accept the owners' explanations, DREAM volunteers have found that most reasons for giving up their pet are out of the owner's control. Among these are financial strains, debilitating illnesses, and relocations in which taking the Dachshund is not possible. "When we began hearing genuine reasons for owners giving up their fur-babies, we knew we were on the right track," says Carver. Not only do they accept owner surrenders, they also try to help the families keep the dog before giving it up. For example, they offer advice if the pet has a behavioral problem or a referral to a low-cost vet if money is an issue.

Finding Hope and Love

The organization consists of several volunteers and foster dog parents all over Houston. Dachshunds are brought from many area shelters, including Harris County, BARC, and various SPCAs. DREAM has also received some pups from locals who, despite their efforts, have not been able to find their respective owners.



Priscilla is one of many Dachshunds who have been rescued by DREAM



Marcie Lawless is a foster coordinator for DREAM Dachshund Rescue

Most rescues arrive with special needs. "They are usually dehydrated, emaciated, and are often suffering from broken bones, severe injuries, or extreme dental decay," says Caillouet. "They might be carrying intestinal parasites and probably 70% of the time, they are suffering from debilitating heartworms." However, with the help of DREAM Rescue and those involved, Dachshunds like Bentley are able to find hope and love.

Passion Behind The Dream

The rescue program would not be possible without the passion the volunteers possess and their unity as a team. "It doesn't take long before we begin to feel like extended family," says Carver. "We've had many occasions where we've celebrated together and where we've cried together."

The volunteers feel the excitement, whether it's nursing a stray back to health or finding a rescue a family. "We adore our breed of choice," says Caillouet. "And each and every person involved in rescuing DREAM Dachshunds will tell you the same thing: 'I wish we could take them all.'" CFM

MARYSABEL CARDOZO is a sophomore at the University of Texas at Austin majoring in journalism. She loves dogs and cannot wait to rescue in the future.

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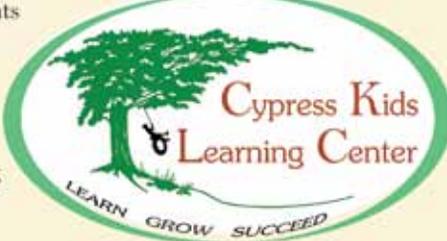
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Volunteer Annie Haegner loves being able to give back by helping animals like Edwin



Community members can help the organization through donations, volunteering, fostering, and adoption

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