



JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2021

MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD

2020! That's a wrap!

Phew, these final few months have been incredibly busy for our team. Between the Memorial service, markets, Purdy's Chocolate Fundraiser, Santa Pics, and Grinch Tree fundraisers, the end of 2020 helped us recover from our closure earlier in the year.



We brought in large numbers of animals since the start of September and adopted out 34 in the last quarter of the year. In total, we finish the year with 48 total adoptions and 14 animals still in care. Just a week into 2021 we have already brought 17 more cats and kittens into our program and committed to bringing 46 dogs from our partner organization in China at the end of January details below.

We hope restrictions will ease this year and allow for more events, but as we navigate these challenges, we continue to adapt and try new ways of creative fundraising. If you are looking to get involved, now is the time. We are going to set up a fundraising committee to help with planning and running events. If you would like to get involved, please email volunteer@rescuefriends.ca

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2021

JAN 11 - PAULS PIZZA FUNDRAISER - SHAWNESSY LOCATION

JAN 25 - SLEEP ROVER MINI PHOTOSHOOT

JAN 28 - SLEEP ROVER MINI PHOTOSHOOT

FEB 1 - PAULS PIZZA FUNDRAISER - AIRDRIE LOCATION

ONLINE AUCTION - DATE TO BE CONFIRMED



PARTNERSHIP WITH SAVING HARBIN DOGS

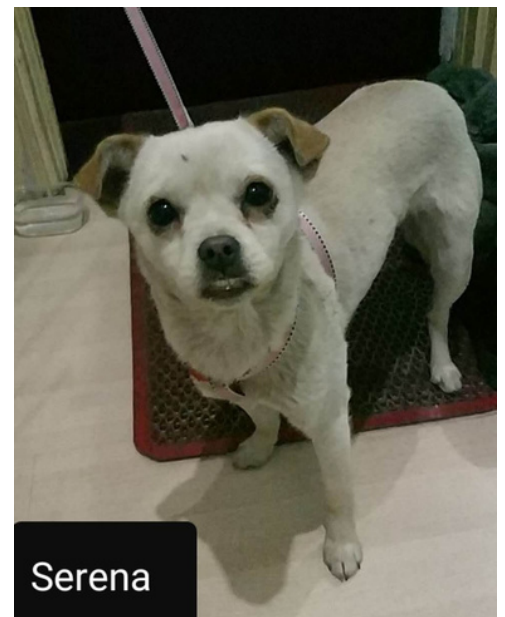
A major new project for 2021 is our partnership with Saving Harbin Dogs in China. There are so many animals in need of a home and we encourage everyone to adopt not shop for your next companion!!! Where possible, please support local rescues, but we also recognize that some people cannot find what they are looking for from rescue groups, and we want to provide those looking for a companion with another option of saving an adorable life rather than turning to buying a dog from a backyard breeder, a puppy mill or a pet store!



救哈尔滨狗
Saving Harbin Dogs

While our focus remains on local rescue, we have also decided to partner with a rescue organization abroad that saves dogs from horrific and unimaginable conditions. We have done so after conducting extensive research and thoroughly reviewing medical protocols. Unfortunately, the costs involved in saving the dogs from their life of terror are incredibly high. Not only do most dogs require extensive medical treatments for infections, severe skin problems, frostbite, parasites, anemia, extreme malnutrition, abuse

injuries, and common illnesses, they also are vaccinated, spayed and neutered and cleared medically in order to attain their exit paperwork from the Chinese authorities.. However, the biggest costs are accumulated from transporting them out of the country to their new life here. First they need to be loaded and fly from Harbin to one of the port cities of Guangzhou, Beijing, or others where an agent then facilitates their weeklong (or longer) boarding kennel stay to attain the appropriate certifications to leave the country. They are then transported back to the airport on the day of their lucky departure and board their flight to North America.



PARTNERSHIP WITH SAVING HARBIN DOGS



We have explored many options to get the dogs here. Since it is so difficult, many groups and private adopters balk and go somewhere that is easier to get dogs from. However, that is exactly the reason we have decided to help here, help where most people will not. What options remain for these dogs if we too walk away? Average costs for flying dogs across the Pacific range from north of \$1600 to over \$3000, large breeds and XL breeds far exceed even those prices.

The cheapest way we have found of getting dogs to safety has been via freight option, flying larger numbers of dogs at once via Los Angeles. First, one must attain all the appropriate USDA permits to be able to clear US customs. We then had to embark on the additional complication of getting the dogs from LA to Calgary, transporting 30 or more dogs is not an easy feat, the long drive needs to be interrupted to allow for safely and securely walking the dogs, feeding, cleaning, and ensuring everyone has access to water, the transport vehicle needs appropriate temperature controls (a closed trailer is not an option at all), sleeping options are rather limited for the drivers (not many hotels would be ok with this entourage of dogs), and then clearing Canadian customs and paying customs duties are the final hurdle. Is all of this worth it? We think so! These dogs deserve a chance. We are also hugely grateful to have received private sponsorship to cover some of the costs of bringing dogs over.

All dogs are fully vetted and we have put together a fact sheet which follows this article to answer some of the most common questions we've received. If given the opportunity of saving these dogs versus buying a dog, we hope you will consider these little ones, their life is worth something too!

Fact Sheet

Why Saving Harbin Dogs?

Do you know that feeling you get when something is so upsetting that it takes the breath out of your lungs, feels like a punch in the gut, nearly brings you to your knees, and causes anger and deep sadness to well up deep inside of you? That's the feeling we get when we look at the stories of these dogs. Saving Harbin Dogs (SHD) does incredible work saving animals from the most wretched of situations. Most people rather live in ignorant bliss, turning a blind eye to absolute horror, but some are courageous, and even when their heart bleeds they do not look away, they walk into the situation knowing they cannot save them all, but they will make a difference nonetheless even though they carry guilt for not being able to help them all. SHD has been incredibly forthcoming with everything we have asked of them. We have had our medical team review their medical protocols, and are satisfied they go above and beyond the standard rescue norms. They do not send unfixed animals, as puppy "rescue" brokers would, they are a US registered charity, they work with reputable groups around the world, their goal is simply to give as many lives as possible a second chance.

What are the adoption fees?

The special project adoption fee will be \$1950 per dog from China. Regular adoption fees for our local animals remain the same. Why are the costs so high and where does the money go? We want to be very clear that we are not profiting from these dogs!!! We are a registered non profit, and all monies raised through fees and fundraising go back directly into saving animals and paying for their care. These particular dogs come far way and are meant to fill a void in the rescue community where smaller breed dogs are hard to find, because of this we incur costs from the cargo flights from Harbin to a Chinese port city, the agent fees to facilitate all transfers, boarding kennel stays, and exit paperwork, flights to Los Angeles, subsequent transfer to Calgary, and brokerage and customs duties. The heavier and larger the dog, the higher the costs become but we average out the overall expense to the best of our abilities.

Fact Sheet

There are significant additional costs, not to mention the veterinary expenses, spay and neuter surgery costs, boarding kennel fees, grooming and basic care costs. In short, even though our special project adoption fee seems high, it still will NOT recoup the full costs involved in saving these animals and we will still be required to fundraise, but it will help us get the dogs here and reimburse Saving Harbin Dogs for some of their medical costs and allow both our groups to continue our work towards saving more lives from the meat trade and slaughterhouse.

Where do the dogs come from?

All the dogs have directly or indirectly been saved from the dog and cat meat trade. Saving Harbin Dogs generally pulls dogs from the local shelter that has over 3000 dogs all saved from the meat trade. They also will rescue dogs from puppy mills that are either shutting down or reducing their breeding stock, unsold animals or spent animals that would otherwise simply be disposed of to a meat trader. There is also a second hand rescue market where local activists will buy dogs as they understandably sometimes simply cannot walk away and some do end up at the shelter this way as well, but by enlarge that is not the way it is done. In addition, there are Meat Truck stops whereby local activists act like highway patrol. Since any meat sold for consumption in China needs certification that verifies that it has been raised in sanitary conditions, and the dog meat traders can generally not attain such paperwork, the activist can involve the Agricultural Authorities to seize animals without permits if they find them before slaughter. When successful, these animals are then placed into the rescue network.

Are the dogs traumatized or broken?

Generally not, dogs are incredibly resilient and they live in the moment, grateful for their second chance and now loving life even more.

Rescue Friends and Saving Harbin Dogs

Fact Sheet

What am I getting in return for adopting one of these dogs?

You will get unlimited, lifetime love and gratitude from a little soul as well as all of us, because you chose to adopt rather than shop, you make it possible for us to save more. You can tell your friends that you are responsible for saving a life from horrific pain and consequences. In addition, you will get a medically cleared, vaccinated, spayed and neutered bundle of happiness and joy.

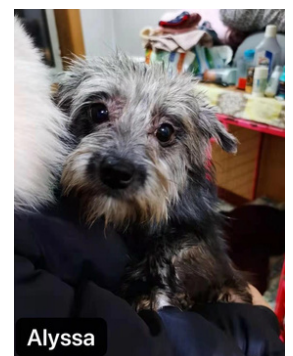
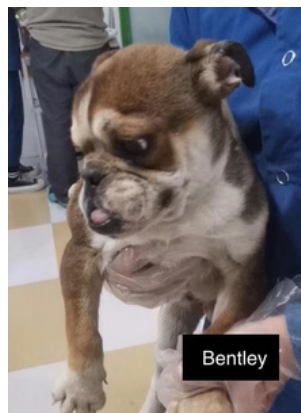
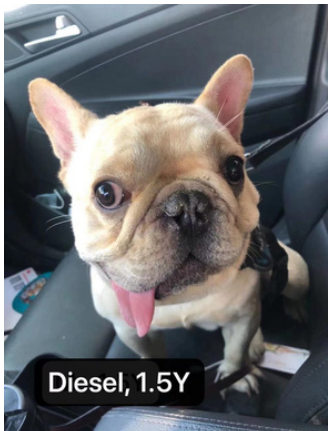
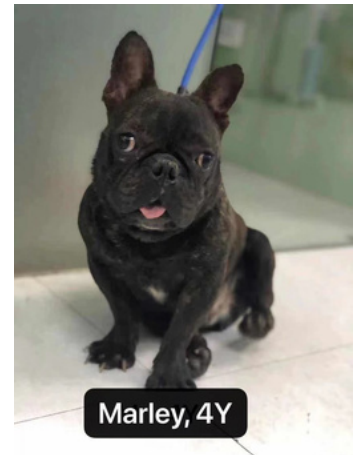
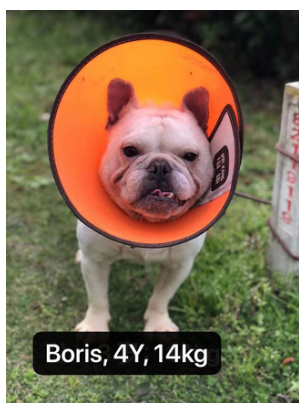
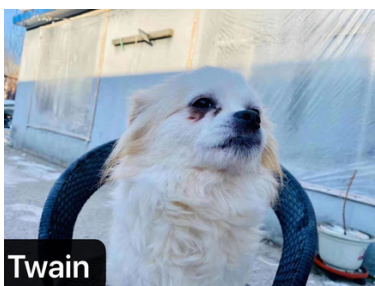
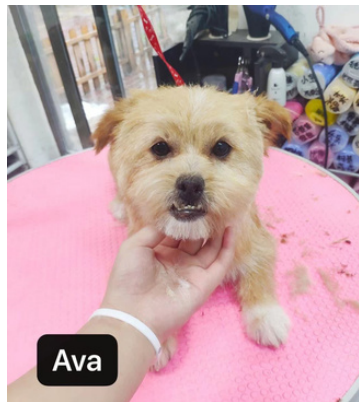
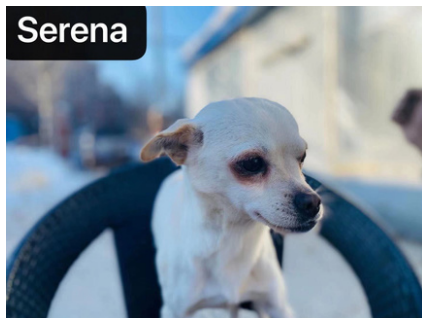
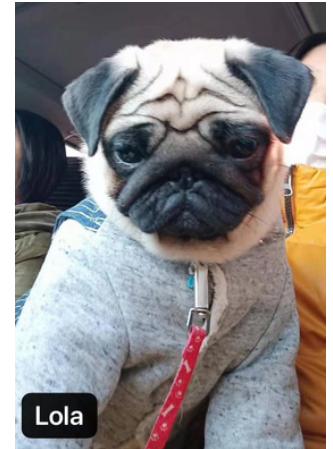
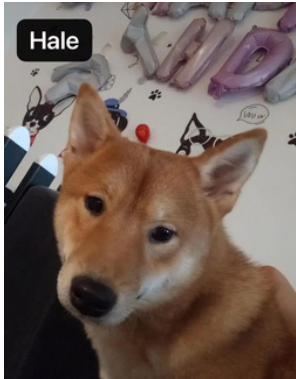
How do I go about adopting one of these precious, little creatures?

Fill out an adoption application at www.rescuefriends.ca! As a reminder, we are 100% volunteer run, so please have patience with us, however if you do not hear from us within 24-48 hours feel free to send us a message to ensure we received your completed application.



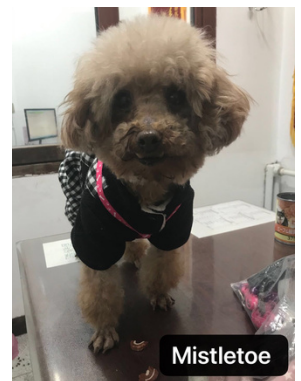
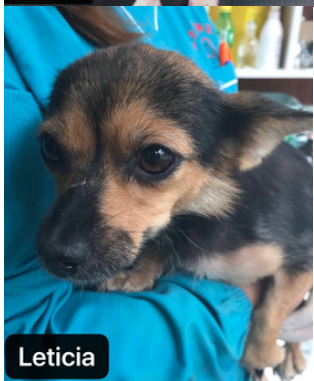
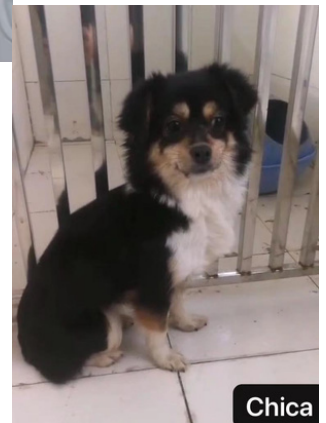
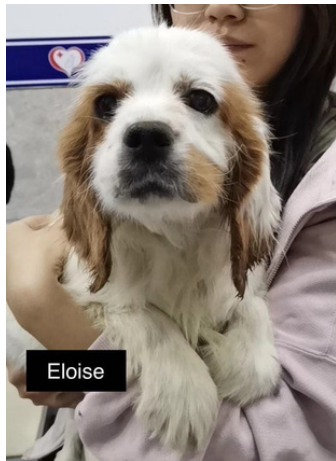
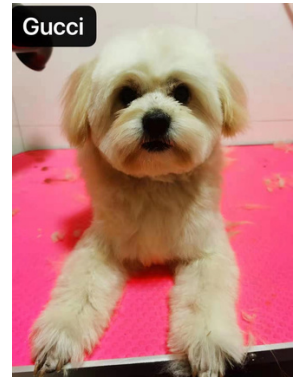
Rescue Friends and Saving Harbin Dogs

Dogs available



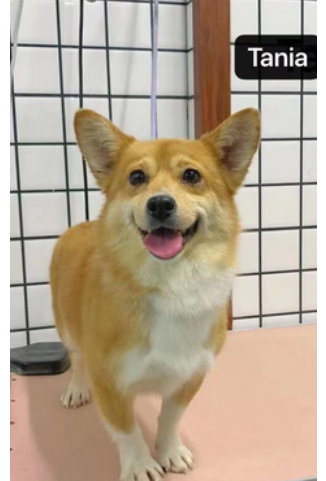
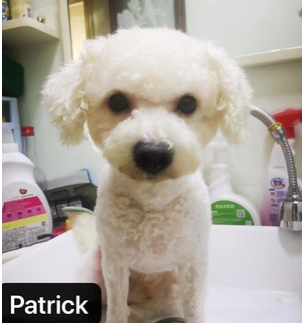
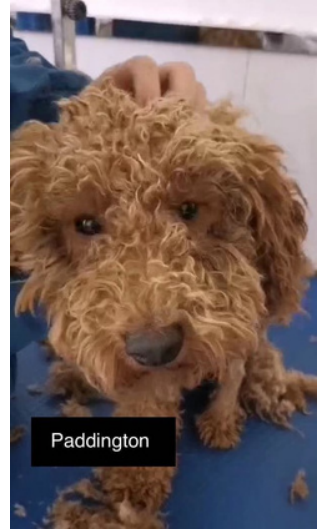
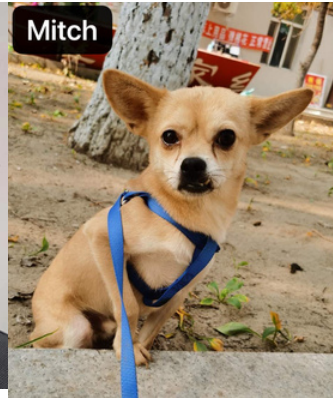
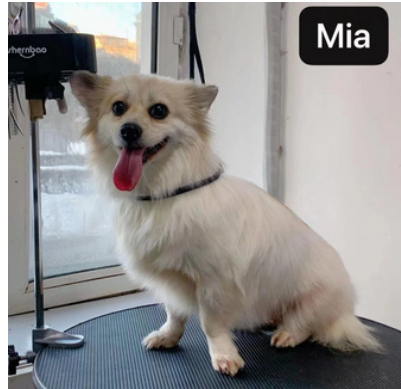
Rescue Friends and Saving Harbin Dogs

Dogs available



Rescue Friends and Saving Harbin Dogs

Dogs available



Rescue Friends Van



In November we were able to purchase a rescue van. This will help tremendously with rescue transports and events as we now have an appropriately sized vehicle to accommodate our needs. Of course, this means extra expenses, and we would be grateful for any help with ongoing costs of maintenance, insurance, and of course gas.

Storage

As we grow, so do our needs. One large pain point for us is storage. As volunteers, we dedicate so many of our own resources, time, and space to continue to help Rescue Friends function and grow, but we are bursting at the seams! It takes a lot of supplies to care for the animals behind the scenes and in foster. Crates, food, toys, and supplies are bulky and take a lot of space.



We looked into storage lockers as a possible solution but found the costs to be hard to justify when that money could be applied to vet bills and helping more animals, however, we need to address our storage woes. We would like to rent a private double garage, as the cost vs. size appears much more affordable. We would like to have it centrally located, close to Deerfoot. If you know of anything available, please let us know. We would also love to have a sponsor each month of this year who would cover the costs of renting a space. In return, your sponsorship (name and company logo if applicable) will receive mention on our social media and website. If you are willing to help please email us at info@rescuefriends.ca.

Wish List

GAS CARDS:

We have been racking up the KM with animal transport. In November alone, volunteers clocked over 3600 km transporting animals into care. This does not include the small local trips to and from the vet or supplies being picked up or delivered. It is a necessary expense but cannot always fall on the shoulders of volunteers. Gas cards are a helpful way to subsidize the costs of transport and are very greatly appreciated.



XPENS - 30 or 36" tall.

With the large intake of China dogs coming into care, we will need to set up several xpens for temporary care. Xpens are wire panel fences that can be configured into pens with more room and comfort than a crate. We will need several xpens, ideally 30, 36, or 42" in height. We appreciate any used donated items or they are available on our Amazon wish list.

SMALL COLLARS, HARNESSSES, AND LEASHES:

We are out! Our remaining supplies are more suited for larger sizes. We need to replenish small and medium size harnesses and collars.



Fundraisers



Support local and support us at the same time.

Paul's Pizza will donate \$2 for every pizza sold to Rescue Friends.



*Monday, January 11th - Shawnessy location
Shawnessy Village Shopping Center
70 Shawville Blvd SE*

*Monday, February 1st - Airdrie location
528 2 Ave SE, Airdrie*

Our friends at Sleep Rover have kindly offered to host mini photo shoots to raise money to benefit Rescue Friends on January 25th and January 28th. If you would like to book a slot, please email Sleep Rover at info@sleeprover.ca

Thank you Sleep Rover!

MINISHOOT FOR RESCUE



DATE: MON, JAN 25/THURS, JAN 28

COST: \$25

PROCEEDS TO RESCUE FRIENDS

PLEASE BOOK DAYCARE
AND EMAIL US AT
INFO@SLEEPROVER.CA
TO BOOK A SPOT!



Happy Valentine's Day



ONLINE AUCTION



We are currently working on our next online auction fundraiser. Please stay tuned to social media for updates. Our last auction had over 13000 views!

The auctions are an excellent way to showcase items from your business with a link to your webpage and gain some exposure. In previous auctions, we found gift baskets, hotel stays, wine baskets/beer packages, and food orders with delivery to be very popular.

If you have anything you would like to donate, please contact us at info@rescuefriends.ca.



Donate with
SkipTheDepot

SKIP THE DEPOT



What is SkipTheDepot? A door-to-door bottle collection service that makes refundable recycling and fundraising easier than 1,2,3.

1. *Download the app and book a pickup using <https://app.skipthedepot.com/rescuefriends>*
2. *Place your bags outside*
3. *Receive a refund and donate to us!*

SkipTheDepot will allow everyone to donate directly to our organization with ease. Spread the word by sharing our SkipTheDepot posts on social media!

WANT TO HELP US?

*We have several ways you can help us grow.
Check out details on our homepage.*

We are looking to fill a couple of specific roles



Become a foster! We can only bring in animals that we have space for. We believe that animals should be part of the family and their transition through rescue should not be in a cage, but instead in the warmth and comfort of a home. We cover all the expenses, you provide the love and care. Sign up on our website and we will contact you with more info.

Donations Coordinator.

In this position, you will be responsible for ensuring we have supplies for our foster homes and animals in care. You will use social media to make call outs for specific requests and organize pick ups and drop off of items as needed.



We are looking for help in the fundraising department and want to create a committee that can help plan and organize fundraising events. Most of the work can be done from home with your computer but does require attending events. Our goal is to have 4 large events, with several smaller ones throughout the year.

If you think you can help, please complete the volunteer form on our website and we will contact you with more information

www.rescuefriends.ca/get-involved

WWW.RESCUEFRIENDS.CA | INFO@RESCUEFRIENDS.CA