

News Release

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LIFELINE 4 PAWS HELPS SAVE 1000TH DOG

(Newbury Park, CA) The Hogan Family Foundation's Lifeline 4 Paws animal rescue support program recently celebrated a significant milestone in its six-year history, working with animal rescue groups to help save its one-thousandth dog from certain death. The beneficiary of the organization's efforts is named Baby Ruby; a tiny, five-month-old Pomeranian, which had suffered from a rare injury called "Hangman's Neck;" a dislocation of the vertebrae that connects the animal's head and spinal cord.

Baby Ruby was discovered by Krystal Morris at the Southern California Pomeranian Rescue in an Orange County animal shelter. She immediately took the puppy to the Veterinary Surgical Specialists in Tustin, CA. After examination, it was clear that Baby Ruby needed risky, expensive surgery or she would certainly die from her rapidly deteriorating condition. She lost the use of her back legs, couldn't hold her head up, and lay in a corner of her kennel cage crying in pain.

Morris contacted Christine Hogan, executive vice president of the Hogan Family Foundation, which operates Lifeline 4 Paws out of the Foundation's headquarters in Newbury Park, CA. Dr. Sebestyen at Veterinary Surgical Specialists provided a discounted surgical rate for the rescue group, which was covered primarily by Lifeline 4 Paws.

Hogan said, "We are so happy that we could sponsor Baby Ruby's surgery. She is now well on the road to recovery and will make a great pet for someone to adopt very soon."

Working closely with animal shelters and dog rescue groups such as Southern California Pomeranian Rescue in Orange, CA, Lifeline 4 Paws will often use the medical talents of highly skilled surgeons such as Dr. Sebestyen. In this case, he literally pinned Baby Ruby's head to her spine in a very delicate procedure and fitted the Pomeranian with a neck brace to allow proper healing. In just two days after the operation, Baby Ruby was walking and playing. Since the operation, Dr. Sebestyen has conducted follow-up examinations and has determined Baby Ruby should be able to live a normal life.

She said many of the thousand dogs they have helped thus far had been badly injured, neglected or just left to die. "They are often found in such bad shape that there is little chance of adoption without life saving surgery or emergency treatment," she said. "We assist rescue organizations in helping heal as many seriously injured or ill dogs as we can so that they may enjoy long, happy lives through loving adoptions."

According to the Humane Society of the United States, only about half of the 6-8 million dogs and cats entering shelters each year are ever adopted. The majority of the rest of the animals are euthanized.

For more information on the Lifeline 4 Paws rescue support program, go online to www.lifeline4paws.org. On Facebook, go to www.facebook.com/lifeline4paws.

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