

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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JALEN: OUR FIRST THREE-LEGGED RESCUE

Jalen was rescued via a cage trap in Oct 2021 following an Instagram post about a sighting of a lone three-legged dog. Through volunteers time, energy and a generous donation by Desmond Lim of The Prosthetic Company, Jalen continues to make new strides each day.

Following his rescue, Jalen was assessed by a vet who recommended that Jalen could live without surgery for his missing paw and instead urged treatment of other pressing health issues such as tick fever and dry eye. Jalen's fur coat was sticky, smelly and covered in bald patches. Jalen's front paw was likely lost to an illegal boar trap.

Volunteers noticed that Jalen had difficulty moving around the shelter. In order for him to pee and poo, a volunteer had to carry him to the grass patch downstairs. He seemed to enjoy his time downstairs, but his walks were short and limited due to his poor mobility and balance. Thus, the team began the search for a prosthetic leg option for Jalen, but quickly realized that there were no animal prosthetics manufacturers based in Singapore.

Volunteers extended their search to include local and overseas prosthetic companies. In early November, a local 3D printing company responded and prototyped a temporary walking aid for Jalen. It improved his mobility for a while, but it soon gave way and broke as it was made of light plastic.

Subsequently, a human prosthetics company reached out and wanted to see Jalen, and explore how they could possibly help him. Several visits, trials and design alterations later, Jalen was fitted with a suitable, comfortable prosthetic that offers him adequate support and assists him with walking.

Jalen is making breakthroughs daily with his new prosthetic leg and is walking longer distances, getting up onto curbs and even doing little dances and kicks on the grass to express his satisfaction. 



^With a prosthetic from The Prosthetic Company, Jalen is able to get around with more ease and less use of his wagon during walks.

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.

MEET THE ADOPTERS: YOSHIE (PREVIOUSLY "YOSHI")

HOW YOSHIE SETTLED INTO HER NEW HOME WITH THE HELP OF SOME FRIENDS

Why did you decide to adopt from a shelter and from Mercylight specifically?

We were used to living with a dog, as I had one in my family house. When we moved out, we felt that the home was quite empty without a dog. We read about shelter dogs, and about some of the transformations. We thought to see if we could provide an opportunity to a shelter dog as well. We reached out to a few different shelters, and Mercylight was one of the firsts to respond. They let us come to the shelter to visit the dogs and bond with them before making a decision.

Can you run us through your decision making process when you decided to adopt Yoshie?

Yoshie was not in the list of dogs we submitted initially - we considered Ella, Yori and Mylo. But we were looking for a dog specifically with a calm, chill personality. We were open to senior dogs, as they are very easy to live with. We came across Yoshie through Mercylight's Facebook post. We liked that there was a story there, and you could get to know the dog's background before meeting them. Coincidentally, while we were at the shelter visiting, one of the volunteers mentioned that Yoshie had very soft fur. We did not settle on her on our first visit, but later on, when walking her, we found her very easy to walk. She was chill and calm.

What was the adoption process like for you?

I would say the adoption process is quite thorough, it took about 2 months for us. I think it was a good length of time, as it allowed us to consider carefully. Initially we couldn't decide between Yoshie and Nino, and even considered adopting both, but decided to adopt one first. We got to bring both Yoshie and Nino out of the shelter to see how they would react. We brought them both for a staycation, and to our house a couple of times.

“ We have new habits now, and go out a lot more. We are definitely more active. I think I (Jian Hao) went to more parks in December 2021 than in my whole life. ”



Jian Hao, Yoshie and Brenda

We also learnt how to bathe the dog, what medication they needed to eat, etc. We were taught the basics of how to take care of a dog. Although Yoshie was so chill at the shelter, she started to get anxious when we brought her to a park and refused to move. Good that we had Nino, because Yoshie is a bit of a follower, she would just follow Nino. We had the home trial period after that, and Kelly suggested Kudo be her buddy.

This was supposed to be for 3 days, but it soon got extended to a week, and then another week. We realised that Yoshie needed Kudo longer to settle down.

How has Yoshie been settling into your family?

She is a very calm dog, always chilling. But I do think she sees us as her family. She will wag, whine and get excited when she sees us. Due to her separation anxiety, we had to desensitize her to be alone at home at the beginning. She is also getting used to having us in her space, and has become more comfortable with our physical touch. A few days before we signed the adoption papers, she left the bed outside and came to sleep in our room. Once, she even jumped on to the bed with me!

How has adopting Yoshie changed your daily lives?

It has changed our lives a lot. We have new habits now, and go out a lot more. We are definitely more active. I think I (Jian Hao) went to more parks in December 2021 than in my whole life. We are also glad to be able to meet her friends, like Bodin's family. We are in contact with them and have small outings together. We have gotten to meet a lot more people through dogs. We got to see a different side of her when she met Bodin, running and pulling the leash to play. 

MEET YOSHIE'S FRIENDS: KUDO & NINO (AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION)



KUDO

Quiet in terms of personality, a little shy but definitely calm and gentle toward humans and other dogs.



NINO SIR

Shy, yet very affectionate. When rescued, Nino had several skin problems which have improved. Likes walks and pats.

MEET THE ADOPTERS: WONDER

HOW WONDER'S TRAINING AT THE SHELTER HELPED HIM QUICKLY ADAPT TO HOME

Why did you decide to adopt a dog?

We have been dog owners for a long time and always wanted a dog to be part of the family. The last time we had a dog was in 2015, and since we recently moved to a bigger place, we thought it would be the perfect time to get a dog!

Why did you decide to adopt from a shelter and from Mercylight specifically?

We leaned more toward shelters because we felt that what these dogs needed most was a home. Mercylight was the first website we saw when we started searching, and Wonder was the first one we stumbled upon.

Can you run us through your decision making process in adopting Wonder?

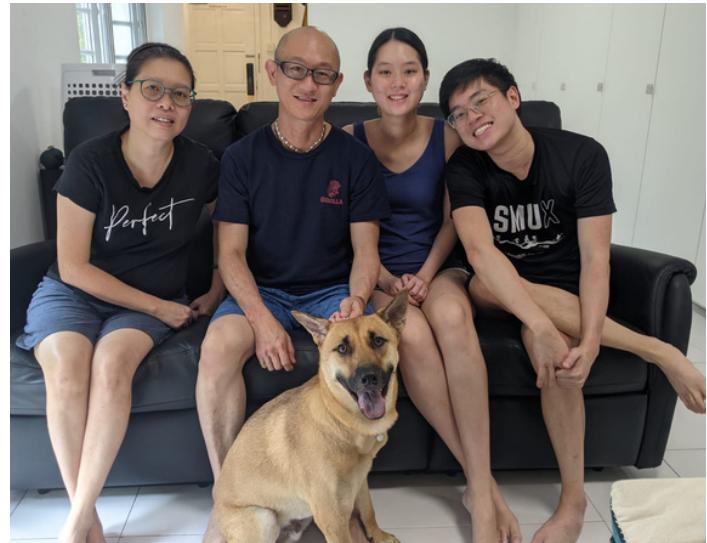
It was really just love at first sight when we first saw Wonder on the website! When getting to know him, we were already quite set on adopting him, so it was all about showering him with love and forming a bond of trust. We also wanted a young dog, so we could have him with us for a longer time.

How has Wonder been settling into your family? Have you seen any changes?

Well, firstly, he's put on weight! Other than that, he quite enjoys the space and is now very eager to go for walks. He likes to interact with other dogs around the neighbourhood, but doesn't get agitated with them even if they bark at him. He's very well mannered, all thanks to the thorough preparation and training done by the shelter. Of course, we were warned of his food aggression, and at the beginning he did show some aggression when we cleaned his ears or bathed him. Now, he's let down all his defenses; we can even clean his eyes! He shows a lot more excitement and curiosity, and learns from his mistakes quickly. Although Elaine has never had a big dog and was once bitten by one, Wonder slowly gave her the confidence to overcome her fears by not only refraining from his usual play-nipping, but also being gentle with her throughout. Kelly's recommendations on his preferred routine and other tips were also really helpful. Overall, he adapted well and quickly became part of the family.

What was the adoption process like for you?

We really liked the process! When we were first introduced to Wonder we slowly got to know him by visiting and walking him, after which we did the home trial. He cried immediately after the home trial when he returned to the shelter, so Kelly mentioned that since there was already a bond, we could move on to adoption, so it was quite fast!



Elaine, Lew Wai Meng, Xi Min, Jing Yuan & Wonder

How has adopting Wonder changed your daily lives?

Wonder wakes up earlier than anybody in the family, around 8.30am to 9am everyday without fail. He'll knock on the door of our bedroom and lie down in front of it, whining to tell us it's time to go down. Interestingly though, he won't get up even if we wake up earlier than usual. He's very active, likes attention, and will come up to us while we're eating or doing things to either rest his head on our laps or nip at us sometimes! He knows the sound of our car, and runs to the balcony to welcome us back home, and also sends us off when we leave. Now, every time we go out, we always miss him and try to go back as soon as we can. He really has become part of the family. He's also helped us to get to know our neighbours better as he's very good with people and will always greet the owners of other dogs he meets! One of his friends is a German Shepherd. He always waits for her, so they can play together, almost like Romeo and Juliet haha!

Anything else to share?

At first, he didn't go very far on our walks and walked better/further if he was with more than one person. Now, he's become more used to walking further even if it's just one of us, and we try to run with him a bit more. He likes to watch people and things, especially deliveries, but won't bark. He's scared of rainy days, and will often hide when there's thunder. He was also quite scared during the New Year fireworks!

Lastly, we'd like to commend the care and effort of everyone at the shelter. Most of the time people would expect less from shelter dogs, and our friends were shocked when they heard about the amount of investment and care put into the dogs that have yet to be adopted. We hope that other shelters can do the same! 

MEET THE ADOPTERS: SASHA, ZION AND LEO ("JERICHO")

REUNION BETWEEN 3 PUPPIES AND MISHA (MUM) AT EUNICE AND SAMMY'S PLACE



Eunice, Sammy, Sasha, Zion, Misha (pups' mum who joined for a visit), Swarna, Shwetha, Leo (previously "Jericho")

Why did you decide to adopt a dog (or in this case, both of them)?

Eunice: We've always loved dogs, and we had a pair of dogs, Whiskey and Zach, that passed away last year. We finally decided that we were ready to get a dog again, and we felt that it would be better to explore adoption. We were intending to adopt one dog but we chanced upon the siblings Sasha and Zion, and fell in love with both of them.

Swarna: Shwetha loves dogs and has pestered us for many years to get a dog. Now that she's old enough to understand the responsibility that comes along with caring for a pet, we felt that it was the right time for us to get a dog.

Why did you decide to adopt from from Mercylight?

Eunice: We were initially thinking of adopting retired army dogs. We looked up multiple dog shelters. By God's grace, I woke up one morning and felt compelled to adopt from Mercylight.

Shwetha: My dad's colleague is a volunteer at Mercylight, and he showed us the website. We saw the puppies and immediately fell in love!

Can you run us through your decision making process when you decided to adopt Sasha and Zion/Leo?

Sammy: There were no specific factors in mind - most importantly, the puppies had to be comfortable with us and happy in our home.

Shwetha: Instead of buying, we were set on adopting a shelter dog. We visited a few shelters and attended a couple of adoption drives, and eventually decided on Leo!

What was the adoption process like for you?

Eunice: We first wrote in via the Mercylight website and got in touch with Kelly. We visited the shelter twice and Kelly also brought the puppies down to our place. We were very impressed with Kelly, because she was very detailed - her first email to us explaining the adoption criteria was 6 pages long! As animal lovers, we felt confident and assured that she has the dogs' best interests at heart.

Eunice (continued): We liked that she gave us a lot of guidance on handling the puppies, and came down for site visits to check on us. She made the entire adoption process so fuss free and easy.

Shwetha: The entire adoption process was very thorough, and Kelly was very helpful. It's our first time adopting a dog, so we really appreciated the guidance. Kelly answered all our questions very patiently. Even after the adoption, we stay in touch through a Whatsapp chat group, and she often checks up on us and asks how we are doing.

How have the pups been settling into your family?

Eunice: Zion definitely took a shorter time to settle down at home. Both of them get along with my siblings, who come and help to take care of the dogs sometimes.

Sammy: Sasha and Zion play and fight all the time, and they are definitely more settled in now. Although

they are siblings, it's interesting how their personalities are very different - Sasha is more playful and energetic, but Zion loves to sleep!

Shwetha: Leo has settled in very well! He licks our faces every morning and he really loves our family. He does a lot of funny things that make me laugh. He's made many friends in the neighborhood and is very popular especially amongst the kids.

Swarna: Yeah, everyone in our neighborhood knows me as Leo's mummy now!

How has adopting changed your daily lives?

Eunice: It's a real joy to have them around, and there's definitely more laughter in the house. Our lifestyles had to change as well - we had to adapt our work arrangements and take turns to go out for work meetings, so that someone stays home with the dogs as much as possible. It's definitely a commitment but it's worth it!

Swarna: The home is so much livelier and happier now! We also spend more family time together because we all try to spend time with Leo. The kids are no longer spending as much time on their phones and scrolling through social media. They are also learning more about responsibility - they are tasked with taking Leo for walks on evenings after they return from school.

Are there any other episodes/anything else you would like to share with us?

Eunice: Having a pet, especially a puppy, is a huge commitment and should not be taken lightly, but the joy that comes along with it is immense. If you can, consider adopting dogs in pairs so that they can keep each other company and are able to socialize with each other as dogs, instead of being limited to only interactions with humans. 



NEW FACES @ MERCYLIGHT

MEET SOME OF OUR NEW BLESSINGS



MATEO

An incidental rescue on 14 Nov 2021 as our original plan was to try to get an injured dog. Mateo took a while to trust us. He was very cautious of us initially perhaps because he was trapped, neutered and released under the TNRM program about a year ago. Sometimes experiences like this can be traumatic for a dog because they cannot understand why they were caught, put to a deep sleep, operated on only to wake up in an unfamiliar place and get released back again after a few days. Nonetheless, Mateo started to understand that we meant him no harm as he observes how other dogs in the shelter respond to us in love and vice versa, and slowly gained confidence and curiosity towards people.



HAILEY

Hailey was redeemed from NParks on 1 Dec 2021. She had a puppy with her but she was taken to be rehomed by another organisation. Hailey settled down in the shelter pretty quickly. She has always been a sweet girl, even when she had her first bath, blood test and vaccination. She has a pair of big eyes and big standing ears. She loves to eat!



MALIA

Malia was rescued 27 Nov 2021 by one of our volunteers together with the effort of one of our adopters. They were moved to rescue her as she always seemed to be loitering around the HDB vicinity alone. We only realised that she was already pregnant a few weeks later. She gave birth to her puppies in the shelter. Malia is a very curious dog with a desire to get to know people. She doesn't seem to regard humans as dangerous, perhaps because she was fed by people living in the HDB vicinity. She loves to eat and started playing with some of the other dogs within a week in the shelter.



IZZIE

Izzie was an accidental rescue on 2 Jan 2022 at 2:30AM. We were trying to rescue an injured dog and there was a heavy downpour. We had never seen Izzie before in our regular feeding, so she must have been cold and hungry, leading her to stray away from her mum. Izzie was initially afraid of the human touch, but by the end of the first week with us, all her uncertainty disappeared. She was fearless, playing with and eating among the adult dogs and she was also freely walking around us. She started to approach and sniff us and before we knew it, she was extremely friendly with us. She will make a good and confident dog in the hands the right owner.



EMERIE

Emerie was rescued (after multiple attempts since Oct 2020). She had several life threatening conditions and could not be in the shelter as she was extremely weak and needed round the clock care. Thankfully someone fostered and showered her with love for almost a month before she left us.





KEEP UP WITH THE BLESSINGS IN THIS ISSUE AND THOSE RECENTLY ADOPTED ❤️



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SIX OF OUR NEWEST TINY BLESSINGS...

AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION LATER THIS YEAR



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