

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

VOLUNTEER INTERVIEWS

YIT KENG 1-2

KAREN 3-4

& MORE!

FRESH FACES..... 5

CATCHING UP..... 6

FROM THIS ISSUE

“

The things we do for them sometimes even exceed what I, as a dog owner, do for my own dogs.

To me, this is not just a shelter for homeless dogs, but a sanctuary where God's love overflows through the actions of every individual into the lives of our shelter dogs.

”

- Karen, page 4



ABOVE: Calvary and Yit Keng share a moment on a recent outing

A DECADE OF VOLUNTEERING: PROFILES OF SOME OF MERCYLIGHT'S FOUNDING VOLUNTEERS

Karen and Yit Keng are two of the few volunteers who have been with MercyLight since it started in 2012. We sit down with them to hear more about their experiences.

Share some thoughts on this exciting milestone! Did you expect or plan to be part of MercyLight for so many years when you joined a decade ago?

YK: Time flies. Some of the MercyLight doggies and I have grown old together for 10 years. I never really thought about the number of years I would be volunteering, because to me, it was more about using my free time to do something meaningful instead of hanging out with friends or simply resting at home.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering?

YK: Seeing the wagging tails and the timid dogs open up to volunteers. It takes time to bond with them, but it's definitely worth it.

Do you think you will continue to volunteer at MercyLight?

YK: Yes. Even if I'm unable to help out in the kennel in the future, I hope to continue helping in other areas like fostering, adoption drive, etc.

How have you seen MercyLight grow in the past 10 years?

YK: From stray feeding to having its own shelter, the number of stray dogs that MercyLight has rescued and rehomed has increased year by year. MercyLight has also been blessed with more volunteers joining.

MEET THE VOLUNTEERS: YIT KENG

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

How does God play a part in your animal rescue and rehabilitation work or volunteering structure? How have you seen God move in MercyLight?

YK: I have seen God's miracle healing in MercyLight's sick dogs. Calvary is one of the walking testimonies of this – she healed from stage 4 cancer. I have also been touched by God as He led us on several successful lost dog searches. Through these circumstances, my faith in God has grown stronger.

What kind of future do you hope to see in MercyLight?

YK: I hope that MercyLight continues to expand further in terms of the number and quality of volunteers as well as becoming financially stable, so as to rescue more strays and increase their chances of being adopted to good homes.

“ I have seen God's miracle healing in MercyLight's sick dogs. Calvary is one of the walking testimonies of this – she healed from stage 4 cancer. ”

Anything you want to share from your heart?

YK: In past years, there have been heartbreaking moments where we lost a number of dogs due to kidney failure and cancer. However, through this painful journey, we also became more aware of the effective herbs and supplements available to cure and prevent certain illnesses, which helped us to save some of the doggies. 🐾

SPECIAL MENTION: CALVARY

Calvary was rescued in May 2017. She was originally nicknamed B10 which is short-form for Blessing No. 10.

In September 2020, Calvary was diagnosed with a late stage cancer and given at most 2 months to live with no treatment options.

With the loving support of volunteers who prepared a coordinated and holistic approach to treatment (i.e. special food, deterring herbs, prayers and attention).

Calvary has outlived her diagnosis and her quality of life is that of a non-cancer affected dog.

Calvary's story wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of MercyLight's volunteers.



MEET THE VOLUNTEERS: KAREN

SHARING THE MOMENTS THAT MAKE VOLUNTEERING AND RESCUING SO SPECIAL

Did you expect or plan to be part of MercyLight for so many years when you joined a decade ago or was it more to pass the time initially?

K: I actually cannot believe it's been 10 years. Frankly speaking, I did not expect to stay so long when I first joined. When my church organised a recruitment drive over the pulpit one Sunday morning for MercyLight, I knew that God had answered my prayers as I love dogs! What better way to serve Him than in doing the things I love?

As you juggle through the different phases of your personal, family and work life in these 10 years, what kept you from putting a stop to volunteering at the shelter?

K: It's not easy sometimes, but two things have kept me going. Firstly, seeing our blessings find their forever home. Secondly, seeing rescued strays who used to always hide in a corner eventually bloom into confident dogs with funny antics always puts a smile on my face.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering?

K: At the start of each kennel session, I enjoy being greeted by the dogs and how they rub their bodies against mine. Their way of showing love is so special, and at the end of a very stressful and hectic kennel session, I leave the place feeling very fulfilled.

Do you think you will continue to volunteer at MercyLight?

K: Yes, although I may take a less active role when my body starts to show signs of slowing down.

How have you seen MercyLight grow in the past 10 years?

K: It has grown in leaps and bounds! We started with nothing but a few volunteers coming together weekly for stray feeding. When some of our stray feeding spots were taken over and we had to rescue the affected dogs, the Pasir Ris Farmway shelter came to place with us renting only 1 to 2 units. Things were much simpler then with fewer dogs.

With more rescues over time, our rental units expanded. This also meant more volunteers in MercyLight. When we finally moved to TAL, many changes took place. The move itself was epic as there was so much logistics to look into. Having to adapt our dogs to a commercial building with two stories was another challenge. By God's grace, however, everything fell into place somehow.

We witnessed some very sad and challenging rescue cases which pushed everyone to be better equipped. There was also a re-branding of our name to our current MercyLight Animal Rescue and Sanctuary (MARS).



Karen at MercyLight's second and current location located at The Animal Lodge

We became a Project Adore Partner in November 2021 and obtained IPC status in January 2022. All these are milestones which show our growth. 🐾

PROJECT ADORE

Project ADORE was started in April 2012, as a pilot by the Ministry of National Development (MND), Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA)* and Housing and Development Board (HDB) to assess the acceptance of mixed-breed dogs in HDB estates if proper safeguards were in place.

Project ADORE is currently led by the Animal & Veterinary Service (AVS), a cluster under the National Parks Board (NParks), and is supported by HDB, in partnership with Animal Welfare Group partners.

* With the transfer of AVA's animal-related functions to NParks from 1 April 2019, Project ADORE is now under NParks' purview.

SOURCE: www.mnd.gov.sg

MEET THE VOLUNTEERS: KAREN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

How does God play a part in your animal rescue and rehabilitation work or volunteering structure? How have you seen God move in Mercylight?

K: There are many challenges we face in our rescue and rehab work. Through it all, however, we see God's faithfulness and His hand at work. One such case is Jalen who lost one leg in a trap meant for wild boars. God provided a prosthetic leg for Jalen through the generosity of one local company. We also saw how one rescue of a female dog turned out to be a rescue of 11 pups as well. This was followed by a few more pregnant mummy dogs.

God has also brought leaders and volunteers with diverse backgrounds and training to meet the various needs in the shelter. Despite relying heavily on sponsors, we were never lacking all these years. Government funding with a dollar-for-dollar match was a great bonus for us. All of the above may seem like just ordinary things that happen in our everyday life, but as I reflect, it is God's favour and hand at work in Mercylight.

What kind of future do you hope to see in Mercylight?

K: My hope and vision for Mercylight is for her to realise her dream as an animal sanctuary – a big land to call our own with training, healthcare, grooming, and lodging facilities for our rescues. This way, our dogs can run free in a big compound and not be bound by walls.

Anything you want to say or share from your heart?

K: I must say that our organisation gives top-notch love and care to our blessings. The things we do for them sometimes even exceed what I, as a dog owner, do for my own dogs. To me, this is not just a shelter for homeless dogs, but a sanctuary where God's love overflows through the actions of every individual into the lives of our shelter dogs. 🐾

SPECIAL MENTION: JALEN

Rescued in Oct 2021, Jalen was a three-legged dog. He was suspected to have fallen prey to a wild boar trap. Despite such an accident, Jalen is easy-going and loves going outside for walks and watching nature.

Jalen now walks, runs, kicks dirt and does zoomies with a special "leg" designed by Desmond, the founder of The Prosthetic Company.



ADOPTION DRIVE FOR THE SUPAWSTARS

Mercylight will be @ NPark's Pets' Day Out!



Jalen



Hikari



Kara



Aki



KaiShin

Come meet our SUPAWSTARS!

🕒 18 June 2022, Saturday
10am-6pm

📍 Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park, Ficus Green
(Opposite dog run)



ADOPTION DAY! After a long hiatus due to COVID-19, some of Mercylight's dogs were all ready for an Adoption Day at NPark's "Pet's Day Out" on June 18. Adoption Day also served as a chance for adopted dogs and their families to meet up. Check out the next Pets' Day Out on August 27 at Parkland Green 🐾

FRESH FACES AT THE SHELTER

SOME ARRIVALS WITH NEW CHAPTERS AHEAD



DIEGO

Diego was redeemed from N'Parks after he was found seeking shelter at a HDB void deck in the Tampines area. He was due to be relocated and would have to fend for himself in a new area, which is why we decided to redeem him.



MARVEL

Marvel was also redeemed from N'Parks after the deadline for her adoption was up. She was due to be relocated or put down. It is likely that nobody wanted to adopt her due to her bad skin condition.



FAITHFUL

Found roaming next to busy roads, and had a few close shaves with passing vehicles. She was a lone dog with no pack, and had her tail chewed off by other dogs. It would have been very difficult for her to survive on her own in the wild.



MIYOO

An accidental rescue in May 2022, while attempting the rescue of another dog. She is very young, and appears to have given birth a few weeks before her rescue. Unfortunately, her puppies were nowhere to be found. She is a shy but sweet girl who allows volunteers to sit beside her and stroke her.



KIBO SIR

An accidental rescue in April 2022 while attempting to rescue a female dog. He is heartworm positive and babesia gibsoni positive, which would have been fatal if it was discovered later. He has been given the proper treatment and is now recovering at the kennel. He has a sweet personality and is caring towards other new dogs, such as Miyoo.

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.

SOME PICS FROM AROUND THE KENNEL



CATCHING UP WITH OUR MERCYLIGHT FAMILIES

CHECK OUT WHAT EVERYPAWDY HAS BEEN UP TO...



WAG 'N WILD BARKDAY CELEBRATION: Cherish and Sammie held an outing at the waterpark with shelter the dogs invited! Lots of fun moments and reunions. 🐾

